

The return of an  
old friend but  
will he bore us?

The English  
garden gets hot

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Section Two, cover story

# THE INDEPENDENT

3.072

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER: Sunny spells and showers

40P (RMSP)



Legume with a view: Giant inflatable carrots float across the capital as Sainsbury's launches a nationwide 'Flying Circus' tour with acrobats and gigantic fruit and vegetables

Photograph: Jane Baker

## Rape victim's foul court ordeal

HELEN NOWICKA

The issues raised by a rape trial in which a woman was forced to relive her ordeal during six days of detailed cross-examination by her attacker, and to be studied by the Home Office, was announced last night.

A coalition of police, victims' support organisations

women's groups have called for a change in the law which allowed Ralston Edwards, who has a history of sexual offences, to question the woman in intimate detail because he was defending himself at the Old Bailey trial. Edwards, 42, was convicted of two counts of rape, a Home Office spokeswoman said. Officials wanted to be sure rape

victims were adequately protected and would review the trial. "Cases like this are extremely rare but we will give consideration to the issues that have come out of it," she said. At present only children cannot be cross-examined by defendants.

During the trial, Edwards reduced the mother of two to tears by asking her to describe

the 16-hour attack in minute detail. The 34-year-old woman had to be prescribed tranquillisers during the hearing, and after one exchange left the courtroom saying she felt sick. She has given her support to the campaign to close the loophole and may launch a campaign on the issue. "The law must be changed - I do not want any other woman

to go through what I have been through," she said.

Edwards, who has previous convictions for rape, asked whether she had been wearing knickers during the rapes, and if she had commented on the size of his genitals.

In court, he wore the same faded jumper and jeans that he had on when he attacked her in

south London last December.

Detective Sergeant Milne Davidson, who led the police investigation, said he was sure Edwards had "enjoyed every minute of it. No doubt he was getting some kind of sexual gratification and pleasure".

After Edwards' conviction the court was told that he had previous convictions for rape

and causing grievous bodily harm to his partner. In 1991, he was jailed for two separate sexual assaults.

Adjourning sentence until 26 September, Judge Ann Goddard told Edwards he was a "dangerous man" who could face life imprisonment. Edwards has asked to be legally represented at the next hearing.

A spokesman for the Bar Council said it was concerned about the effect on a victim of an open-ended cross-examination. "There should be a limit."

Malcolm Fowler, deputy vice-president of the Birmingham Law Society, warned, however, that there were dangers in altering court procedures for one sphere of litigation. "It simply won't hold water to say that rape cases are in a category by themselves. To do away with the normal rules would be deeply unwise because it could mean the precedent is repeated."

## A cruel spectator sport that women dread

By Polly Toynbee

Ralston Edwards first found this loophole in the law four years ago, when he was accused of two separate assaults on women. He defended himself against charges of tying on top of one of them and beating her with his fists. Interrogating her gave him his first taste of intimidating his victims across the court room.

Rape victims make notoriously bad witnesses. Canine defence barristers know well that they can be made to quail and quail under intense questioning. They can be made confused and distressed by having to describe in an open court room disgusting things that have happened to them. They can find that they have to defend themselves. All this may make them trip up, contradict them-

selves or sound like unreliable witnesses. Imagine how much worse it must be for the victim to be interrogated for six days by the rapist himself, squeezing a last sadistic thrill out of rendering her to wreckage.

The intimidatory tactics of some defence lawyers are thought to be responsible for the shrinking proportion of rape cases that secure a conviction. Although many more women do come forward to re-

port rape now the police have a gentler reputation in dealing with the crime, many victims are still thought to hide in fear and shame. Ralston Edwards will have struck a clever blow for rapists if women reading about this trial shrink from reporting rape for fear of such an ordeal.

How can rape victims be better protected from such browbeating in future? Some suggest that rape defendants should not have the right to defend themselves in court, but this would breach a most fundamental right. Others urge more modestly that women confronted by their attackers should be allowed to give evidence by video from another room, with questions put to them through an intermediary, as children are in sex abuse cas-

es. But some lawyers say this would deny justice, since the jury have nothing to go on but their own assessment of the veracity of the accuser and they need to see and assess the witness repeatedly on the same point.

Yesterday, as pressure grew

for a review of the law to pro-



Reliving the ordeal: An artist's impression shows how Mrs X broke down under cross-examination by Ralston Edwards

## Germans bring hope of cut in interest rates

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

Hopes of another cut in the cost of borrowing were boosted yesterday as a much bigger than expected reduction in German interest rates sent rates tumbling across Europe.

The prospect of lower UK interest rates was further strengthened by official figures showing little in the way of inflationary pressures in industry or the High Street.

"Another cut in UK rates is now definitely on the cards," said Simon Briscoe, an economist with stockbrokers Nikko.

Events moved rapidly after the influential German central bank, the Bundesbank, slashed its key short-term interest rate by 0.3 percentage points, to just 3 per cent. It takes the rate to its lowest level since 1979.

The Germans had been expected to cut rates in an attempt to kick-start the flagging economy and stem an alarming increase in unemployment.

But in a surprise move, the French central bank followed

## Ministers accused of ID card stealth

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

The Government was accused yesterday of trying to introduce a compulsory national identity card by stealth.

As Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, unveiled plans for an ID card, which will be available to children as well as adults, it became increasingly clear that the Government intends all British citizens eventually to carry one.

Although launched as a voluntary system with cards costing between £10 and £15, the Government admitted that "the aim will be to introduce an identity card which achieves eventually a very wide coverage of the adult population".

John Wouds, director of operations for the Data Protection Registrar's Office, the official regulator, said: "There is a danger that there is going to be a compulsory card [introduced] via the backdoor. I'm sure that will happen in the future."

He added: "What is voluntary today becomes compulsory effectively as time goes on ... you

posed to a compulsory system, while civil liberty groups believe both are unnecessary. The scheme came under further attack by John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, who branded the plan "un-British" and described the inclusion of the European Union logo on the card as the "ultimate humiliation". He called on Mr Howard to abandon the scheme.

It is believed that only the opposition from outside groups, particularly the police, and the prospect of having to pay more than £600m to give every citizen a card, prevented the scheme being made compulsory.

The card will be available to children as well as adults, despite a recommendation by the Committee of a lower age limit of 16.

Mr Howard said the card would assist the police in tackling some less serious crime as well as acting as an alternative passport.

The Government is expected to bring in legislation in the autumn and the cards could be available by next summer.

Something on you, page 3

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QUICKLY  
Tube strike called off

While the RMT rail union reluctantly agreed to call off Tube stoppages in London, the hard-left Socialist Labour Party was accused of blocking settlements of disputes with seven rail operators which will be hit today by 24-hour strikes. Page 2

Charity fights on  
Supporters of a new anti-gun charity vowed to continue after its founder resigned amid allegations he had concealed his true identity and a criminal record. Page 6

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## news

# Hard left blamed for rail strikes

**BARRIE CLEMENT**  
Labour Editor

The hard-left Socialist Labour Party was yesterday accused of blocking settlements of industrial disputes at seven train operating companies which will be hit today by 24-hour strikes. At London Underground however a reluctant RMT transport union, which is heavily influenced by the SLP, called off stoppages by drivers which were due to affect tube services today and next Tuesday.

The abandonment of the industrial action came in the

wake of acceptance of a peace formula earlier this week by drivers belonging to the drivers' union, Aslef, and the imposition of the settlement on all crew by London Underground yesterday. Management welcomed the decision to call off the action and insisted the deal accepted by RMT was exactly the same as that signed by Aslef.

"They have finally seen sense," said a spokesman for London Underground. However, RMT officials claimed they had won extra concessions.

Attempts to avoid disruption at the seven train compa-

nies came to nothing. The impact on timetables will vary depending on how many guards are RMT members. South Wales and West will be worst worst hit with most of the 500 trains cancelled.

Managers at some of the train operators, formerly part of British Rail, claim that local union representatives have been prevented from signing agreements by the 12-strong rail executive of the RMT, six members of which are members of Arthur Scargill's SLP.

A similar accusation had been made by senior officials at

London Underground. Their colleagues in Aslef had already accepted the deal which concedes a 35-hour working week by 1998, but which only allows for a pay rise of 2 per cent below the inflation rate.

A spokesman for the RMT insisted that the "general grades" executive had gone out of its way to arrive at an agreement with London Underground. Union officials yesterday met representatives of conciliation service Acas and reached agreement.

In the national rail network it is understood that the union

is attempting to impose a model agreement on all 25 train operators and has been keen to prevent local negotiations.

The "overground" dispute centres on claims by guard conductors and catering staff for extra payments to reward increased productivity.

A half-hourly service between Milton Keynes and Euston is among the trains North London Railways is planning to run and at Regional Railways North East it is hoped to operate a quarter of the timetable.

North West Regional Railways are to offer most hourly trains

from Manchester airport to Manchester Piccadilly.

All electric trains in Strathclyde will run as normal and among other ScotRail services will be hourly trains between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Enquiries about services can be made on 0245 484930.

A fresh attempt will be made today to resolve the postal dispute which yesterday crippled services for the sixth time. The Communication Workers' Union said the 24-hour strike was as solid as the previous stoppage, but managers said millions of letters were delivered.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A 13-year-old boy was rescued yesterday after calling coastguards to say his father had fallen overboard from their yacht. The 45-year-old yachtsman, who had no lifejacket, was later picked up in heavy seas off the south Cornwall coast, but died soon afterwards.

The boy had been asleep and woke up to find himself alone aboard the *Timonair*, sailing from Falmouth to Plymouth, said a coastguard spokesman. The boy's father was airlifted from the water about a mile and a half from the vessel, after being spotted by the warship HMS *Roebuck*. The boy was taken to Fowey, and placed in social services care.

The small community of Great Wyrley in Staffordshire was in shock after learning that 16-year-old Lucy Burchell had been found murdered. The teenager had been reported missing from her parents' home last Thursday. She had been due to leave her GCSE results yesterday. Her classmates were said to be devastated by the news. Teachers said she would have been pleased with her eight GCSE passes.

Two sea cadets found her body behind a nightclub near Edgbaston reservoir in Birmingham. It is thought she lay undiscovered for four days. Detectives believe she was strangled.

A Japanese trawler detained inside Irish territorial waters was last night escorted by a fisheries protection vessel to Castletownbere in County Cork where its captain will face charges of illegal fishing. The *Minato Maru*, one of a 40-strong Japanese fleet based off County Galway, is the first non-EU registered vessel held in Irish waters in two years. A second vessel was also being searched for evidence of fishing in Irish waters.

Irish fisheries surveillance officers believe the Japanese, pursuing Atlantic tuna, had laid long "monofilament" lines linked to radio beacons and were waiting for Irish monitoring to end before retrieving them. But Irish naval officers warned the monitoring is to continue. *Alan Murdoch*

Breast reduction should be available on the NHS and not rationed like other forms of cosmetic surgery, researchers said yesterday. A study by doctors in Oxford published in the *British Medical Journal* showed the operation greatly improves the physical, social and psychological well-being of women who undergo it.

Most of the women surveyed sought the operation to relieve pain in the back, shoulder or neck. Afterwards, they were more able to take part in sports and other activities after treatment and their self-esteem received a boost. *Glenda Cooper*

A senior university computer technician has been arrested and charged as part of an inquiry into the alleged international distribution of child pornography on the Internet. Father-of-three Robert Bickerstaffe, 48, who works at Liverpool University, was bailed to appear before Liverpool magistrates on 19 September, charged with possessing indecent photographs of children.

Bristol is planning a £98m "glasshouse" arts centre. The futuristic style of the Centre for the Performing Arts at the city's historic dockside would rival the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The huge building would have glass walls so that all four floors would be open to view.

The Centre would form the core of a redevelopment plan at the city's Millennium site at harbourside. It would stand alongside the proposed natural history media centre, Science World, and a hands-on science centre, Science World. An application has been made for £75m from the Arts Council of England. *John Updike*

Or has warned the National Lottery organiser, Camelot that it will "need a lot of convincing" to allow it to set up its own brand of beer and champagne. Camelot announced on Wednesday that it was considering lending the lottery's name to a range of lagers and sparkling wines.

The number of people with long-term illnesses increases sharply as unemployment rises because the long-term sick find it difficult to get back into work when there are few jobs around. The rates are exacerbated amongst the lowest social classes whereas the professional and managerial classes remain relatively unscathed.

A study in the *British Medical Journal* of men aged between 20 and 59 over a 20-year period found that when unemployment was low, nearly all men with chronic diseases continued to work. But during the 1980s recession, the impact of unemployment fell disproportionately on low-skilled manual workers. *Glenda Cooper*

A man acquitted on three previous rape charges was jailed for 12 years yesterday, after he sexually attacked two women in 24 hours. Sexual psychopath Nicholas Laloo told both women "You girls are all the same, you deserve it", as he subjected them to "horrible" sex assaults, and threatened to kill them, the Old Bailey heard.

Laloo was cleared of rape in 1994 at trial. Since then he has been accused twice. The first case collapsed after the complainant had a nervous breakdown. The second, in Weston Super Mare, was dropped before it reached court.

French police investigating the murder of the British schoolgirl, Caroline Dickinson, last month are to solicit information from police in the port of St-Malo, where a man was detained earlier this week in connection with a series of recent rapes in the region. A source close to the murder inquiry was quoted by the French news agency AFP as saying that they were treating the arrest "very seriously". A DNA test is to be conducted shortly. *Mary Dejevsky*

American scientists have found genetic proof of a third branch of life on Earth, indirectly strengthening the possibility that it could also have arisen on Mars. An American team has completed mapping of the DNA of tiny unicellular organisms known as "archaea", first discovered in 1977. They had always posed "an intriguing and incompletely resolved puzzle" about life and evolution. Researchers write in today's edition of the journal *Science*.

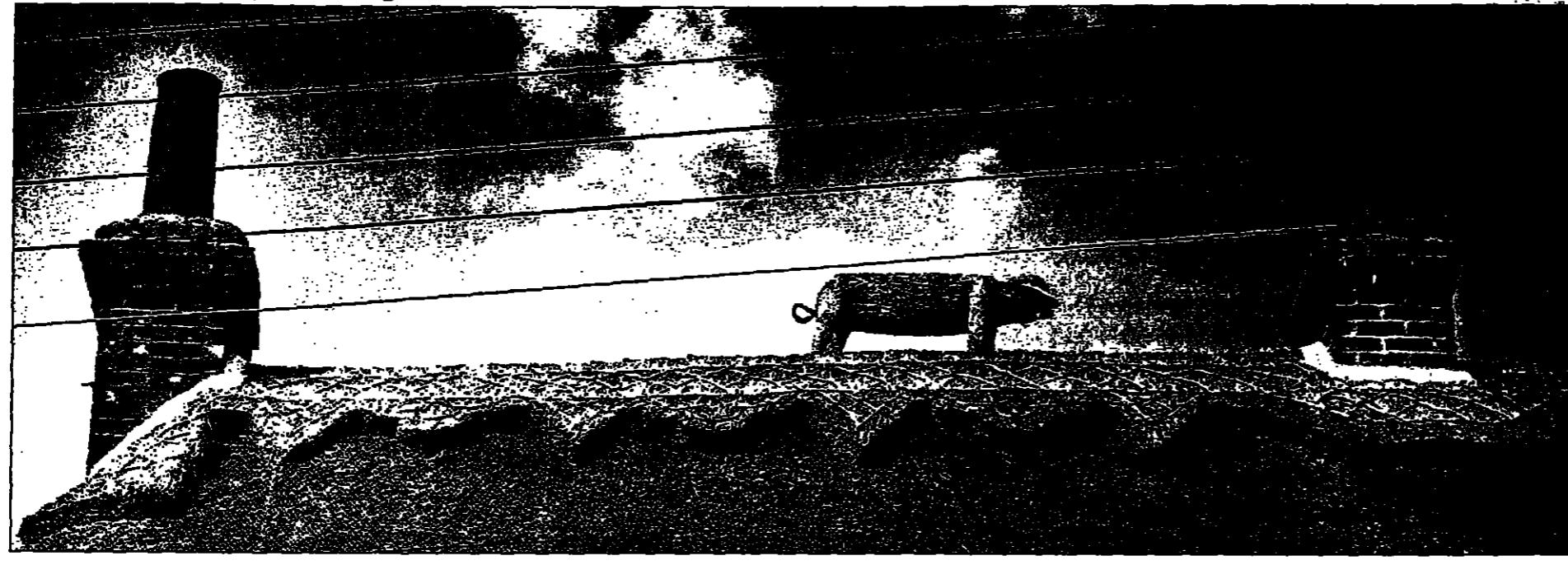
Now they have identified and sequenced the DNA in one type of archaea, and found that two-thirds of its genes are different from any encountered before.

**Bryn Estyn** – an apology: On 20 June, we published an article about Bryn Estyn HM Approved School, which suggested that boys were being physically abused there throughout the 1960s. We now accept that this report was inaccurate and misleading, and apologise for the distress caused to former Bryn Estyn staff. Letters, page 11

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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## Pigs might fly as thatchers' battle raises the rooftops



Before now the good people of Aldbourne and Chilton Foliat, two villages nestling on the Berkshire-Wiltshire border, were content with model pheasants adorning their thatched cottages.

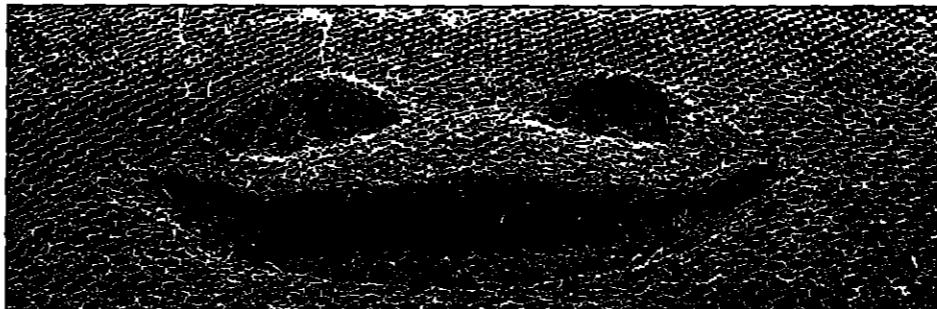
But times move on and fashions change and now you are no one around here if you have not got a straw cat or a pig padding across your roof. Thatched animal figures have long been a tradition in the area but the latest cavalcade of thatch toipary is the talk of the town. Residents are trying to outdo each other with more elaborate designs woven into their roofs.

They are employing thatchers to include

cats, toads, and even a pig on the skyline. One resident, Louise Stacey, from Aldbourne, was proud of the new cat on her roof. "It seemed like a really good idea to have a thatched cat on the roof of my house because I have three cats myself and they have always been my favourite animal."

Thatcher Andy Aldiss has been weaving roofs for 13 years and has just crafted a toad which has appeared on one house, appropriately named Toad Hall.

Toad Hall's owner, Nick Wentworth-Allen, said: "We've had lots of people stopping and laughing. It's certainly added sparkle to people's lives." Photographs: John Lawrence



## Fear over mad sheep is 'nonsense'

**STEVE BOGGAN**

German calls for a ban on British lamb were described as unjustified by Brussels yesterday as Welsh farmers threatened a tit-for-tat boycott of German goods.

Claims by a German government spokesman that mad cow disease could cross over into sheep were dismissed as nonsense by EU experts, the British government, farmers and scientists.

However, last night farmers feared damage may already have been done to British exports.

The controversy was sparked by Werner Zwingmann, a German agriculture ministry official, who warned consumers of British lamb during an interview on German television. He said: "Until this is cleared up by the European Union's scientific panels, [consumers] should give preference to sheep meat from other countries.

Spokesman Gwilym Thomas said: "They export about £200m a year in farm equipment and tractors to us each year, but if they are going to boycott our products on such spurious grounds, then we'll boycott them.

There is a lot of anger here that someone can make such irresponsible claims without thinking of the terrible economic damage they can cause."

While Conservative MPs

panicked in their own country against all science, logic and reason."

Welsh farmers, who could be hit particularly hard by a German ban, said they were considering calling for a boycott of German tractors and farm machinery under a slogan: "If it's Jerry built, don't buy it."

Last night Nikolaus van der Pas, the European Commission's chief spokesman, poured scorn on the German claims. "We don't support any such recommendation because we don't see any grounds for it," he said.

The Meat and Livestock Commission described Mr Zwingmann's statements as "alarmist and unscientific".

Its spokesman, Phil Saunders, said: "There has not been one case in Europe of a sheep contracting 'mad cow' disease. It is almost incredible that the ministry could be so irresponsible as to start a new consumer

Richard Lacey, professor of medical microbiology at Leeds University, a thorn in the side of the government over food crises from salmonella in eggs to BSE and its links with CJD, described the German claims as ridiculous.

"They are claiming there is a link between BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep, but they are two separate diseases," he said. "The incidence of BSE in cattle increased exponentially from seven in 1986 to 36,000 in 1993, but during the same period scrapie stood at about 3-4,000 a year and it's falling."

However, he added: "There is still blame to be laid at the feet of the government because for years they lied to the world about the cause of BSE, saying it had been caused by scrapie-infected feed."

Now that there are suspicions that BSE is causing a new type of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease in humans, they can't really complain that the rest of the world is concerned about eating out sheep."

But Lord Justice Aldous, in judgement with Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Saville, said there was "nothing in the evidence to suggest that the public would believe that Life Savers are a Nestle sweet".

They will realise they are a rival product," he said, refusing leave to appeal against a High Court decision earlier this week.

Derek Wilson, joint managing director of Trustine the Foodfinders, the company who hope to import Life Savers, said it was no longer planning to use the line "the original mint with the hole", but reminded Nestle that Savers had been in existence for longer. Looking like lifebelts, the sweets were created in 1912. "For That Stormy Breath".

A spokeswoman for Nestle said last night that it was "disappointed" that the interim injunction had not been granted, adding: "The action under common law is still pending."

Polo no longer the mint with the hole

GLENDA COOPER

A legal battle over the possession of nothing was resolved yesterday as the Court of Appeal told Polo that a hole by any other name would taste as sweet.

What happens to the middle of Polo mints has been debated by bar-room philosophers ad infinitum. But now we know that, whatever it is, Nestle UK, Polo's makers, cannot guarantee exclusive rights to the title "the mint with a hole".

The company had tried to get an injunction stopping the American sweet, Life Savers, being marketed in Britain as the "original mint with a hole". It argued the public could become confused between the two.

But Lord Justice Aldous, in judgement with Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Saville, said there was "nothing in the evidence to suggest that the public would believe that Life Savers are a Nestle sweet".

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THE INDEPENDENT

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1 SHORTS

ID cards are another step towards a world where anonymous agencies have our lives on a database

# They've all got something on you

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
and JASON BENNETTO

The national identity card will not be compulsory and at least initially will hold relatively little information about individuals.

But it is one more step in a world where growing numbers of agencies from private companies to central and local government hold ever-increasing amounts of computerised and cross-referable information about individuals, their present and past lives and their lifestyles.

One of the biggest sets of information - though one of the best protected - is the decennial census, providing a mass of information on the 58 million people in the United Kingdom.

It is broken down only to ward level, however - data on individuals is not disclosed. The Inland Revenue holds details of the declared income and taxation of all earners - but again under legal confidentiality restrictions.

Anyone who has worked has a national insurance number, with social security computers recording contributions and claims, details of employers, periods of unemployment, and receipt of benefits.

The police hold details of convictions and cautions, and in some cases, such as sexual incidents, information where the defendant was acquitted or charges dropped. Criminal intelligence holds information on associates of people targeted by the police while MI5 and MI6 have files on suspects ranging from IRA bombers to members of groups judged at times subversive - the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, for example.

GPs and hospitals hold medical records which - subject to a dispute over patient confidentiality between the British Medical Association and the National Health Service Executive - will soon be available on the NHS computer network. Hospitals and health authorities will definitely use them and GPs are being invited to join.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) knows your car ownership, while BT and other telephone companies know which numbers have been called from your phone, when and for how long. Local government holds your council tax record and details of contacts with social services.

But the biggest change in recent years has been the growth of commercially held information on an individual's lifestyle and spending patterns - data built up by banks, mortgage providers and credit-card companies, supermarkets and magazine subscription lists.

Credit-rating companies can tell a prospective lender your last recorded address, anyone you live with over 18, whether you are bankrupt or have county court judgments against you and whether you are paying your present debts on time.

One boom area has been "lifestyle" surveys - one firm recently sending out 3 million questionnaires asking people to answer 300 questions. The information is then sold for direct mail. Consumer "loyalty" cards are also booming, allowing shops to build up pictures of their customers' purchasing habits. Tesco, for example, has a database of 8 million names.

The Data Protection Act requires that computerised information solicited for one purpose must not be used for another without permission, but John Would, the Data Protection Registrar's director of operations, said: "I think people would be surprised at the level of information being held on them... It is a continual concern that people's personal privacy is being invaded."

Liz Parratt, campaigns coordinator for the civil rights group Liberty said: "We are drifting towards a surveillance society because people don't pay sufficient attention to their rights and liberties."

Greg Bradford, managing director of CACI, which provides targeted marketing data companies, says much more information about individuals could be assembled if everyone had an identity number that was freely available. Vast quantities of could be merged. But he said that with the legal restrictions on what can be disclosed, he did not believe it would be "commercially attractive for anyone to try it".

"People might find that idea of a communal data being merged frightening," he said, "but for me the much bigger fear would be if government used the ID number to merge all the data it holds on us - that would be Big Brother."

The Government has, however, left the door open for compulsory cards in the future, though many believe it is real intention.

store other information, such as social security details, but there are no proposals for this at the moment.

The photocard driving licence will bear the Union Flag and the EU flag.

People in Northern Ireland will be able to keep existing driving licences which do not bear the Union Flag.

How much will they cost? Initial estimates put the cost for the ID card at between £10 to £15, and the joint driver's licence and ID card at between £20 to £25.

Will they bear a Union Flag?

Yes. The identity card will also have the Royal Crest. The combined driving licence and identity card will in addition bear the 12 stars of the EU logo.

Will the cards have an age restriction?

No. The Home Office hopes they will help to stop under-age youngsters buying alcohol.



## What will the new ID cards reveal about us?

What sort of cards will there be?

They will be the size of a credit card and there will be a choice of the following cards:

a) a joint identity card and driving licence

b) a separate identity card

c) a photocard driving licence for those who decide not to hold an identity card, or for non-resident citizens of the UK.

Will everybody have to carry one?

The photocard driving licence will be phased in for all drivers, but the identity card will be voluntary. The magnetic strip could also be used to

store other information, such as social security details, but there are no proposals for this at the moment.

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cigarettes, videos and lottery tickets.

Convenient than having a passport or several different items of identification.

The Government also believes they will help identify illegal immigrants.

Will it be easy to forge them? No, the card has several special security features, although forgers are certain to attempt to overcome them.

Who will be responsible for issuing the cards?

The two possibilities at the moment are the driving licence authority (DVLA) and the Passport Office. No decision has been made yet.

## Information is all in the cards

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

Cards can already store enough data to identify us by our digitised signatures, fingerprints and even the unique patterns of blood vessels in our retinas. Given that choice, it is cost and convenience - rather than precision - that will determine what sort of cards we must carry around to identify ourselves.

The ID card announced yesterday contains the minimum of technology - a magnetic stripe, holding security details to prevent forgery. But a few years are already moving towards smart cards - like credit cards, but with a built-in microchip - as national identity cards. South Korea has said that within a couple of years all its citizens will use them as a combined digital voting slip, pension entitlement and medical insurance certificate, driver's licence (with endorsements), health, social security and military service record. In Germany, adults carry smart cards with details of their combined private and public medical insurance - in effect, an identity card by default.

But in Britain, cost is a key factor. "Biometric checks are a very long way off in the UK," says Emma Newham, editor of



Smart choice: Cost will determine the type card developed

out recently for the Employment Agency in the north of England showed that magnetic stripe cards can store enough data to identify a signature, making it virtually impossible to impersonate someone else.

In a trial in Illinois, claimants for some welfare payments carry smart cards holding their retinal scans. In South Africa, pensioners in the poorer townships use smart cards containing a digitised version of their fingerprint. At the payment office they provide their card and put their finger onto a reader: the two must match before they receive their payment.

In Britain, though, "people are used to signing for benefits, but not to providing their fingerprints", said Andy Lewcock of AEA Technology, which developed the signature verification software. Similarly, in May the Government awarded a £1.1m eight-year contract to a consortium of companies to automate the Post Office and Benefits Agency's payment systems. The present printed order book that a claimant takes to the payment office will be replaced with a magnetic stripe card, containing the holder's name and National Insurance number. These will be phased in over the next couple of years.

Biometric Technology Today magazine, "There's enough ruckus over the national card with a magnetic stripe." The cost of a smart card (up to £10, even in

volume), and the cost of the reader systems able to communicate with the chip, mean that simpler technologies are likely to prevail. An experiment carried

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## 'News at Ten' rapped over Major interview

REBECCA FOWLER

*News at Ten* has been reprimanded by the chairman of the ITC, the independent television watchdog, following an interview with John Major last month, which was attacked by the Labour Party as a "fawning" homage and "little more than a party political broadcast".

Sir George Russell agreed that the interview had been "a little too friendly and relaxed" in a letter to the Labour Party yesterday, although the ITC said that Independent Television News, which produces the bulletin, had not breached the watchdog's code.

The interview was given top billing despite the TWA crash in New York in which 230 people died. Mr Major spoke to

Trevor McDonald, the news anchor, for seven minutes.

At one point, Mr McDonald, who was accused of grovelling, said to the Prime Minister: "I have been reading some of the interviews you have been giving to newspapers recently and what comes over is the extraordinary dedication you have for this job."

He was also attacked by Labour for not probing Mr Major over his record on the economy, tax cuts, Tory splits over Europe or his hopes of re-election. A senior Labour source claimed: "You would not have got an interview as fawning as that on Albanian TV."

In the letter to David Hill, Labour's chief media spokesman, Sir George said the questions in which Mr McDonald



McDonald: Inappropriate tone

referred to Mr Major's "extraordinary dedication" could be viewed as "inappropriate". He wrote: "We believe that setting exactly the right tone in such situations as this something ITN may wish to consider further for the future."

Mr Hill had written to the ITC following the broadcast on 18 July urging an investigation into the Labour Party's formal complaint that *News at Ten* had breached the impartiality section of the ITC programme code". He claimed the questioning was not "dispassionate" or "even-handed".

A Labour spokesman said yesterday: "We are delighted that the ITC has agreed with Labour that the tone of Trevor McDonald's interview with the Prime Minister was inappropriate."

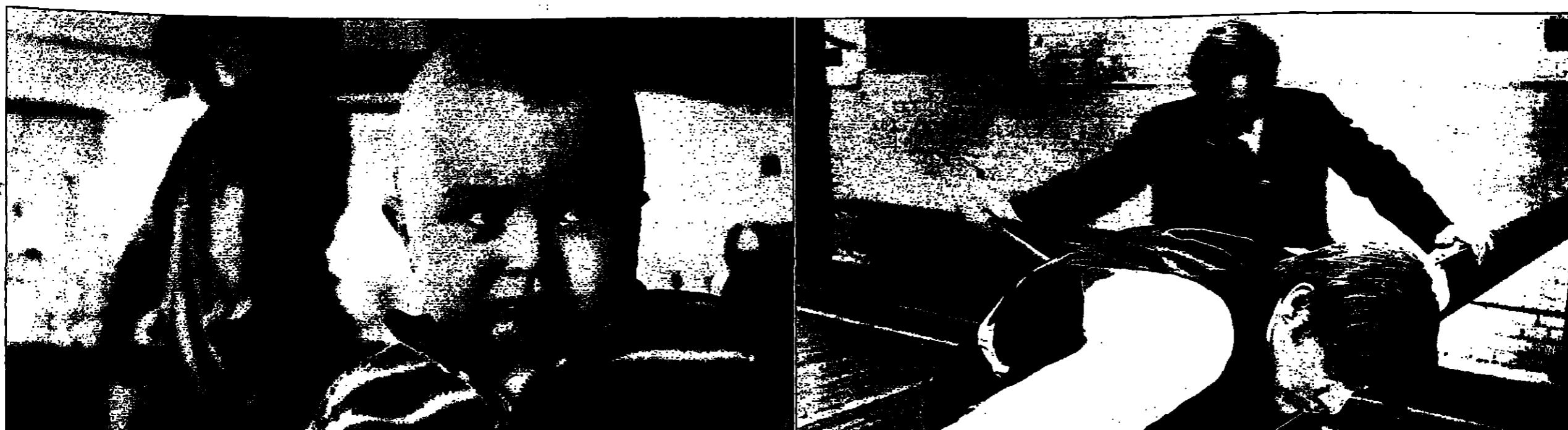
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TIN



news

# It's been a bad day, the children have been hell, then they put themselves in danger. Are you right to smack them?



International conference says even a cuff should be made illegal

## SOLO MOVES

er, which most parents understand perfectly well."

Campaigners from 25 countries yesterday called for a change in the law to make the smacking of children as unacceptable as wife beating.

The International Conference on the Ending of Physical Punishment of Children in Dublin wants slapping children to be made illegal by 2000.

"The basic target is to change attitudes and make it quite clear that it is no more acceptable to hit a child than it is to hit your friends or your wife or anyone else," conference co-ordinator, Peter Newall, said.

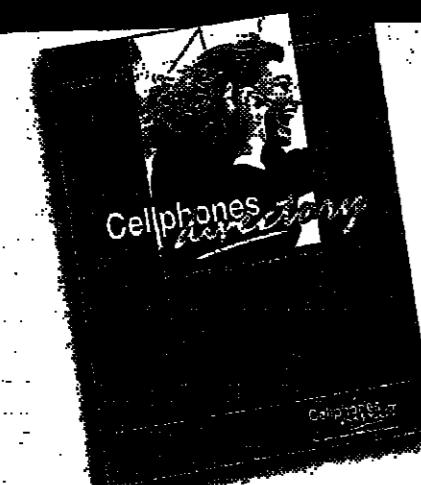
But he stressed that the purpose of a law making smacking of children illegal was "wholly educational" and aimed at changing attitudes rather than putting parents in the dock.

He told BBC Radio 4 that this did not mean punishing more parents. "There are now six or possibly seven countries in Europe that have taken this step ... The result has not been any increase in prosecutions of parents. Far from it. By changing attitudes towards children, it actually reduces the need for formal interventions."

The issue of smacking is a contentious one. Earlier this year the Labour leader, Tony Blair, reignited the debate when he admitted he had occasionally taken a hand to his children.

"I always regretted it because there are lots of ways of disciplining a child - and I don't believe that belting them is the best one," Mr Blair said at the time. But he added: "There is a clear dividing line between administering discipline on the one hand and violence on the other."

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## international

# Lebed's fragile deal gives Chechens hope

General seals troop pact but fails to find favour with President Yeltsin

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Battered by feuds in the Kremlin and criticism from his own boss, Alexander Lebed, Russia's security tsar, last night notched up a victory in Chechnya by quickly striking an agreement on troop withdrawal with the rebel leadership.

The apparent breakthrough came after a day of negotiations in the republic, where the general averted threats by renegade Russian commanders to launch an all-out assault on Grozny to try to flush out a force of several thousand Chechen rebels.

It also coincided with a decision by President Boris Yeltsin finally to end a two-week hibernation by appearing on television to try to demonstrate that, despite appearances, he is control of his fractious government and to belie reports that he is seriously ill.

Yesterday Mr Lebed emerged from a meeting in a

rebel-held Chechen village saying he had struck a deal with the Chechen separatist chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, in which Russian troops would start a partial withdrawal from southern Chechnya today. He said Grozny, seized by rebels a fortnight ago, would be under joint military control. The Security Council secretary also vowed to sign a draft political agreement on Chechnya's status in two days, although it was not clear how far-reaching it would be. "Troops will be withdrawn from Grozny because constitutional order cannot be introduced using air and artillery strikes," he said.

The deal will infuriate the hardline Russian generals, who oppose a speedy withdrawal and still believe force can resolve the 20-month war. Given their past performance, another serious confrontation could be looming. Even as Gen Lebed spoke, there were unconfirmed reports that 50 Interior Ministry

troops had been killed in a fire-fight with rebels in Grozny.

Nor is it clear if the deal will be acceptable to Mr Yeltsin, whose policy has become increasingly unclear since his victory in July's election.

Yesterday Mr Lebed's successful, if fragile, resolution to the threatened Russian onslaught on Grozny appeared to have failed to impress the President, who told the Ria Novosti agency: "He [Gen Lebed] has always promised to solve the Chechen problem if he had power. Now he has power." But Mr Yeltsin was "not entirely satisfied" with his progress in Chechnya, a remark that appears to reflect the President's desire to remain on-side with conservatives in the government and the military.

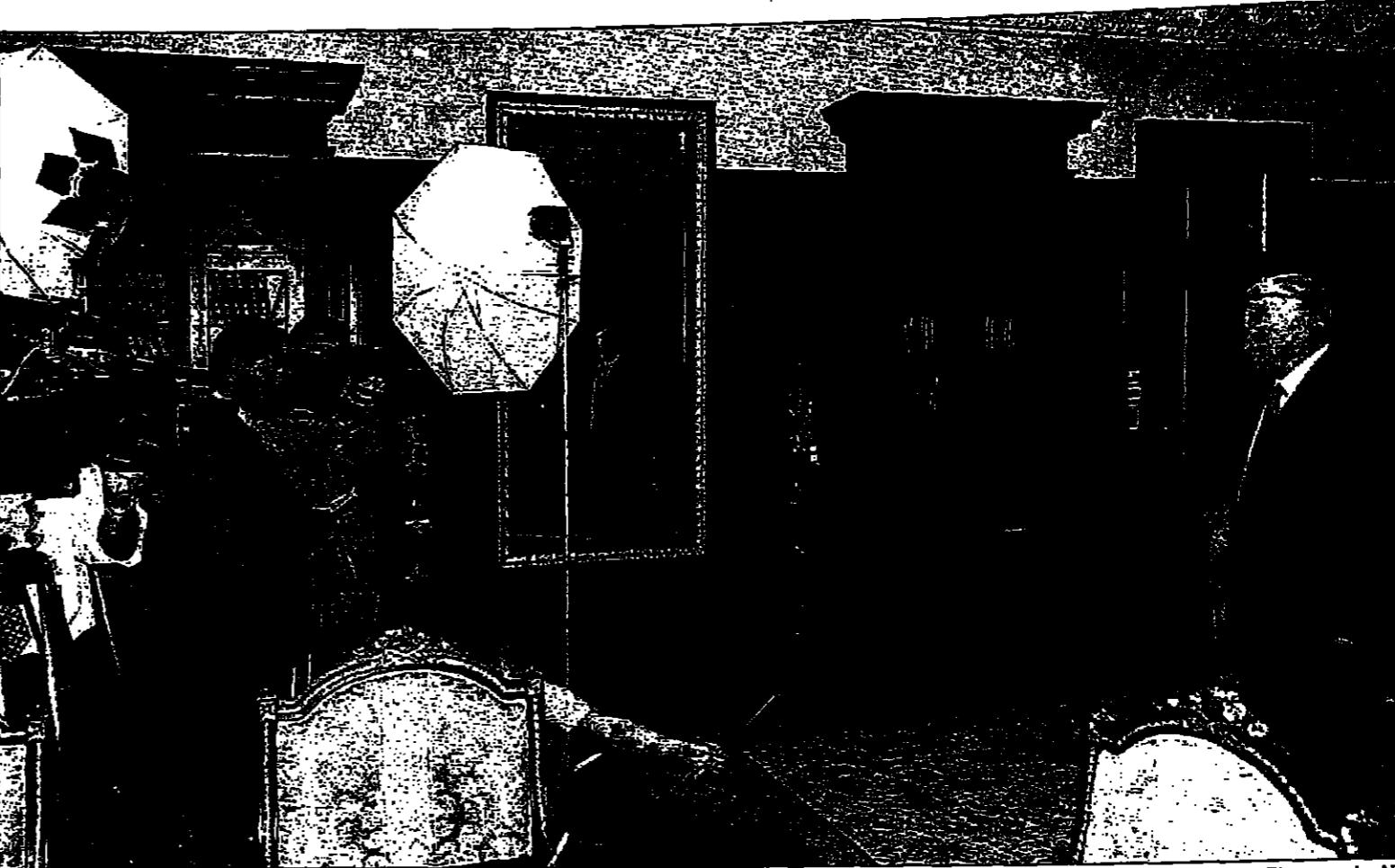
Although he spoke clearly during his television performance, the President looked wooden and stiff. In a separate clip on the state-run RTR channel, he was seen laughing but it was a long shot and gave few clues about his true health.

Even if Gen Lebed has made lasting progress in Chechnya – and that was a moot point last night, as all previous peace talks have collapsed – other battles lie ahead. One reason for the army's beligerence in the republic is plans by the new Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, dramatically to cut the size of the Russian military to form a professional corps, a scheme that Mr Yeltsin and Mr Lebed endorse. More fights with the Germans seem inevitable.

At the same time, it is becoming increasingly clear that Mr Lebed's Security Council is developing into a separate power base which is grappling for power with the government, and particularly the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, on several fronts.

Yesterday the general's staff opened a fresh line of attack. No sooner had the government agreed its 1997 budget than the council criticised its contents, saying that it included too little investment. The council called for higher import duties and attacked proposed cuts, warning that Russia's crisis over unpaid wages may get even worse next year.

Some observers have suggested that Mr Yeltsin's offer may be part of a plan to head off industrial unrest in the mines and elsewhere, which has been caused by the government's strategy of withholding pay for months. Mr Yeltsin also named his first woman cabinet minister, Tatyana Dmitrieva. She will be in charge of health.



Face the press: Boris Yeltsin in Moscow yesterday after his return from holiday in Valdai. He has not appeared in public since 9 August (photograph: AFP)

## Communist gets job as Yeltsin minister

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin yesterday appointed as a minister a leading Communist who stood against him in his re-election to the Kremlin and is a close colleague of his former adversary, Gennady Zyuganov.

With anger simmering in Russia's provinces over unpaid wages and broken election pledges, the decision to give a job to Aman Tuleyev appears to be an effort to demonstrate that his government is broad-based, and is open to people from across the political spectrum.

Russian news agencies said that Mr Tuleyev, who is from the Siberian coal-mining region of Kemerovo, would be the minister responsible for relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the loose coalition that was created after the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Speculation that Mr Yeltsin – who made a fleeting appear-

ance on Russian television yesterday – would include some Communists in his government has been circulating for several months, so the appointment of Mr Tuleyev was not entirely unexpected. Before his re-election, Mr Yeltsin said he was willing to engage in a dialogue with all those for whom the fate of Russia is a top priority, including "honest Communists".

Mr Tuleyev, 52, has twice run for the Russian presidency, although he dropped out of this year's race at the 11th hour in order to leave the way clear for Mr Zyuganov, who eventually lost by a 13-point margin.

Some observers have suggested that Mr Yeltsin's offer may be part of a plan to head off industrial unrest in the mines and elsewhere, which has been caused by the government's strategy of withholding pay for months. Mr Yeltsin also named his first woman cabinet minister, Tatyana Dmitrieva. She will be in charge of health.

A silent stillness reigned in Grozny yesterday morning, hours after the deadline for the threatened Russian assault expired. The road leading into the city from the east, for the last two days crammed with refugees, was empty.

A few residents were out, fetching water in buckets from hand pumps, keeping close to the buildings.

A burst of automatic gunfire crackled, but Russian Interior Ministry troops, trapped on a bridge, were not concerned. "There is some light shooting like that, but it's nothing," said one officer.

Several hundred yards away, Chechen fighters said the same. "There was mortar fire here at three or four o'clock in the night," one fighter said, pointing out damaged houses. "But since the morning it has been quiet. They have not bombed or

shelled. There is just the odd shooting in the centre," he said. He was standing beside a freshly dug trench and a bunker hidden by branches, outside a private house where a group of fighters were living, along with two Russian builders they had caught in town.

The calm in the city was a stark contrast to the panicky exodus of refugees under gun-and-shell-fire only the day before. The calm seemed to be due entirely to former general, Alexander Lebed, who flew in from Moscow announcing that he was calling off the ultimatum that gave civilians 48 hours to leave the city before Russian forces launched an attack to retake it.

Konstantin Pulkovsky, acting commander of Russian troops in Chechnya and responsible for

the ultimatum, was removed from his post with an order signed yesterday, Mr Lebed's press secretary said.

Mr Lebed met the Chechen chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, on Wednesday evening in the village of Novy Aragi, south of Grozny. The two men sat face-to-face over a table spread with a map of Chechnya. Mr Lebed appeared at ease and in his shirtsleeves. "There will be no more ultimatums," he said, adding that General Pulkovsky had been joking.

Asked if the bombardment of Grozny would stop, he said: "I'm going to Grozny to ensure that it remains quiet."

"We remembered that we both served in one army," added the former general and commander of the 14th army, Konstantin Pulkovsky, acting commander of Russian troops from Grozny, and he

to prevent further clashes by creating joint command posts.

Alexander Varkhatov, Mr Lebed's press spokesman, said that the issues of Chechen independence and a full withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya had been put aside for the moment.

Russian troops outside Grozny were delighted at the progress. "It is good if it is quiet, then we can go home," said Lieutenant Colonel Leonid Selivanov. "It all depends on Lebed and whether the President [Boris Yeltsin] backs him."

The Chechen fighters gave Mr Lebed a jubilant thumbs-up. "He is a military man, he has seen it all, he has fought in wars and seen blood being spilled. I think he is a serious man and keeps his word."

Yesterday morning Mr Lebed was back in rebel-held Novy Aragi, sitting with Mr Maskhadov, hammering out a deal on how to separate the two fighting forces, how to organise a partial withdrawal of Russian troops from Grozny, and how

## US neo-Nazi jailed for four years

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

Spitting defiance at the German judiciary, the American neo-Nazi leader Gary Lauck marched out of a Hamburg courtroom yesterday to begin a four-year prison sentence for exporting racist propaganda.

"The struggle goes on," he shouted in German as he was led away. "Neither the National Socialist nor the Communists dared to kidnap an American citizen," he screamed.

Those were the first meaningful words he uttered during the three-month trial, contesting to the end the German court's jurisdiction over his activities. Lauck, 43, had built a neo-Nazi publishing empire at his home town of Lincoln, Nebraska, sheltered from prosecution by the US constitution.

A man who cultivated a fake German accent and adopted Hitler's hair style and moustache, Lauck has led the National Socialist German Workers' Party – Overseas Organisation, for more than a decade, and distributes the *NS-Battle Cry* newsletter, as well as other Nazi propaganda material banned in Germany.

He was arrested on an international warrant from Germany when he attended a convention of neo-Nazis in Denmark in March 1995. In September last year he was extradited to Germany on the basis of a little-used Danish law that bans racist statements.

Whilst Lauck himself remained silent during the trial, his lawyer tried to argue that the man dubbed by the US press as the "farm-belt Führer" had committed no crime under his own country's laws.

"I am a Nazi, but this isn't about my views, it's about the constitution," Lauck told the *Dallas Morning Post* last week. "Here I am, a newspaper publisher, and I was kidnapped abroad and taken to a third country and thrown in jail for something that is totally legal in the United States."

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Disarmament negotiators wrapped up almost three years of talks on a global nuclear test ban with no pact agreed and without even agreement to report their failure to the UN General Assembly. Opposition from Iran and India prevented the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament sending a negotiating report to the UN, where major powers still hope to reintroduce the draft text and have it signed next month. India vetoed the draft treaty because it does not contain a clause committing the five declared nuclear powers to a timetable for nuclear disarmament. But conference members had still hoped to send the negotiating report, which merely stated that no consensus had been reached on the text, to the General Assembly, which asked the Geneva body last year to negotiate a pact. Backers of the treaty hope it can be adopted and opened for signature by late next month. *Reuter – Geneva*

Catholic nuns in Calcutta were praying for Mother Teresa, who was admitted to hospital on Tuesday after a heart attack. Her condition is "extremely critical", said doctors at a clinic who are also treating the 84-year-old Nobel Peace Winner and charity worker for respiratory complications and malaria. A bulletin said her health was "extremely fragile" but stable. Flanked by coronary troubles, she was fitted in 1992 with a pacemaker. "She is on a respiratory support and has fever but she is fully conscious," said a bulletin issued yesterday afternoon by the Woodlands Nursing Home. *Tim McGirk – New Delhi*

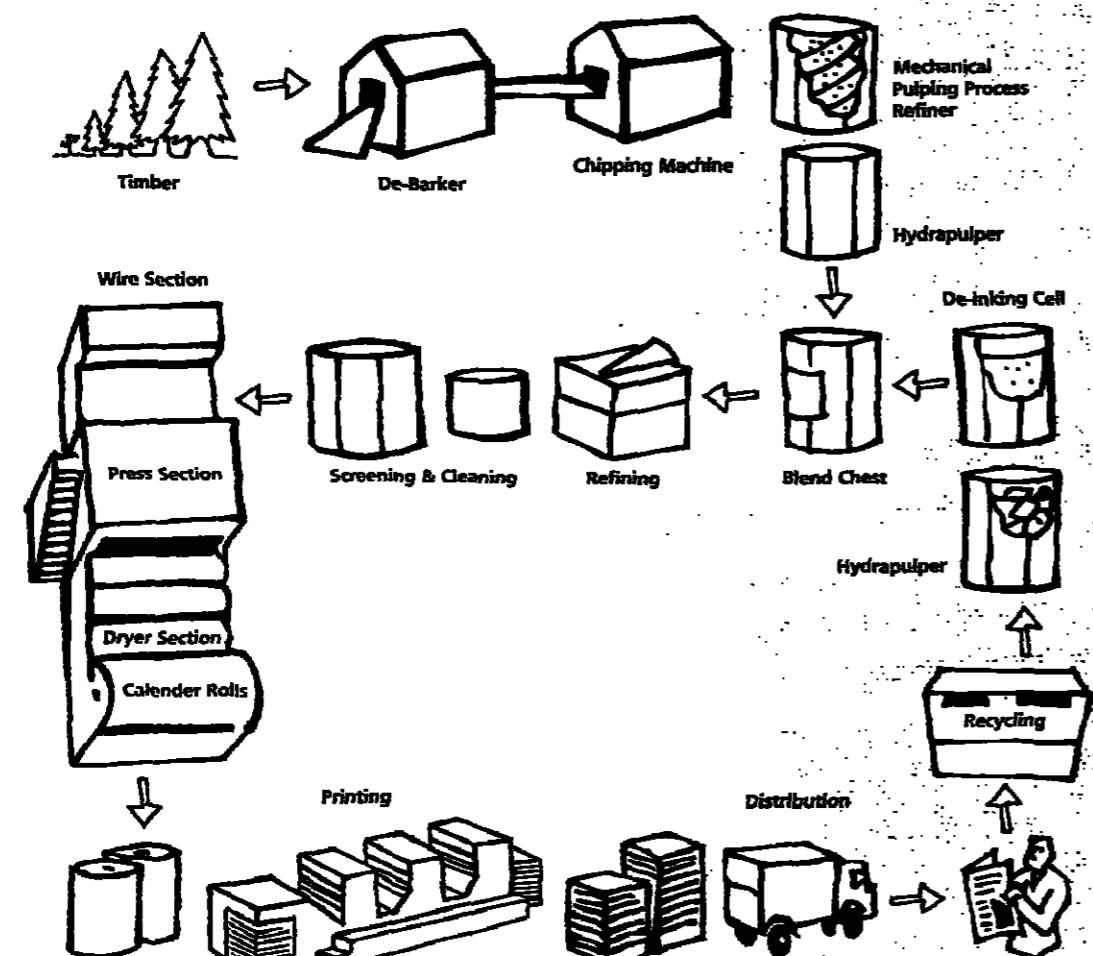
More than 6,000 people were reported to have been killed in Burundi following the coup on 25 July, Amnesty International said. In a statement, it said the situation in Burundi continued to deteriorate, despite promises by the new Tutsi military ruler, Pierre Buyoya, to end killings. It said he had learnt that at least 4,050 unarmed civilians were buried after being extrajudicially executed between 27 July and 10 August by government forces in the province of Gitega. *Reuter – Nairobi*

Austrian state prosecutors said they were launching legal action against Jörg Haider, the extreme right-wing Freedom Party leader, accusing him of defaming a minister. Klagenfurt prosecutor's office said it would start proceedings over comments Mr Haider made last year about the Interior Minister, Caspar Einem. It will be the first time a state prosecutor has initiated legal action against the controversial politician. His comments at a Freedom Party convention pertained to Mr Einem's alleged abuse of office. *Reuter – Vienna*

East Timor's government plans to sue Portugal, its former colonial ruler, for crimes allegedly committed during 450 years of rule that ended in 1975, just before Indonesia took over. Abilio Jose Osorio Soares, the Jakarta-appointed governor, said Portuguese forces killed and tortured many East Timorese suspected of backing the Japanese during the Second World War. The motive of the suit was not clear but appears to be an attempt by Jakarta to counter its image in dealing with the independence movement in East Timor. *AP – Jakarta*

Greece's Socialist Prime Minister, Kostas Simitis, said an early general election would be held on 22 September. Reasons cited were the economy and tense relations with Turkey. Elections are not due until October 1997 but Mr Simitis wants a new term to push through economic decisions aimed at bringing Greece into line with its European Union partners. *Reuter – Athens*

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**Border control:** As Madrid tries to block a new influx of migrants, hunger-strikers in Paris look set to win their right to stay

# French cave in to immigrant church protest

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

A five-month campaign by several hundred illegal immigrants to remain in France appeared to be rushing towards a denouement yesterday, with French ministers abandoning their tough "no-negotiation" stance and grasping for a way to end the protest without seeming to dilute the immigration laws. The immigrants, 10 of whom are in the 45th day of a hunger strike, have been occupying a Paris church for almost two months in an attempt to have their deportation orders lifted and to obtain legal residency papers.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the immigrants insisted that concessions announced by the government on Wednesday were inadequate and that their protest – including the hunger strike – would continue. He was responding to the government's decision to convene the Council of State, a constitutional review body, to consider whether the immigrants' demands could be met within the framework of the law as it stands.

This key concession, which

suggested that more flexible interpretations of the law were being considered, was accompanied by a change in rhetoric to stress that humanitarian concern would be met and that there was no question of "breaking up families". A few days before, the Interior Minister, Jean-Louis Debré, had described the church protest as "unacceptable blackmail".

Yesterday, in an attempt not to raise protesters' hopes too far – or to meet vociferous objections from the right – Mr Debré warned that any solution would have to be within the law and that some of the protesters would be disappointed. He said that there could be "no mass regularisation", but that "a helping hand should be extended to the most deserving cases". The possibility of financial sweeteners for those who are deported was also raised.

The immigrants' protest, which began in April and appeared to be flagging earlier in the summer, suddenly escalated a week ago, after police seized the 10 hunger strikers in a dawn raid on the church of St Bernard in northern Paris and took them forcibly to hospital

for medical checks. That move, prompted by fears that the strikers might die, provoked a frenzy of righteous indignation across France for and against – but mostly for – the protesters.

The first sign that the government was cracking came on

Tuesday, when the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, broke his holiday and returned to Paris to handle what was by then a drama of national proportions. That evening, he received Gilles Robien, a senior member of the UDF, the Gaullists' coalition partner in parliament, who had put forward what he described as a "purely personal initiative" for ending the impasse.

On Wednesday, Mr Juppé convened an emergency ministerial meeting in Paris, at which the decision was taken to consult the Council of State. The Council of State met yesterday morning and was due to deliver its conclusions to Mr Juppé by the evening.

While the protest has bitterly divided the right, it has united the left in spectacular manner.

Eight left-wing groups and parties, including the Socialists, Communists, Trotskyites and Greens, signed a petition to

President Jacques Chirac calling for a compromise.

The railings around the church of St Bernard are festooned with red flags and trade-union posters. Left-wing politicians and personalities,

including Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of France's late president, come and go. Show-business celebrities, such as Emmanuel Béart and Marina Vladiv, have also flocked to the church and threatened to hand

cuff themselves to the hunger strikers, should the police move to end the protest by force.

Public opinion remains divided, but is mainly disposed towards the protesters. On

Wednesday evening, more than 6,000 people marched through central Paris (in prime holiday season) in support of the St Bernard protesters.

A survey published yesterday showed that at least half of those

sympathised with the protesters; 30 per cent opposed them and 50 per cent wanted negotiations.

The vast majority want a case-by-case approach – rather than the blanket legalisation sought by the immigrants' leaders.

No passage: French riot police face supporters of illegal African immigrants outside the Hall of Justice in Paris yesterday

Photograph: AP



# Human tide races to beat Spain's deadline for tougher rules

ELIZABETH NASH  
Madrid

The flow of illegal immigrants into Spain, always at its peak during the summer months, is reaching an unprecedented level as those seeking to legalise their status rush to beat a deadline which expires today.

But the new arrivals are bound to be disappointed, as the opportunity to become legal is tightly restricted to those already living here. Since July, the Spanish authorities have picked

up more than 1,000 North Africans trying to cross the Gibraltar Strait in rickety wooden fishing boats. Up to 2,000 undocumented immigrants have been held so far this year, the highest for four years.

In recent weeks, pathetic boatloads of would-be immigrants have been plucked almost daily from Spain's southern waters. Thousands more are thought to have eluded the authorities and entered unseen. Many do not survive the hazardous crossings.

The number this year has risen on account of the immigrants' expectation that if they reach Spain before today, they will be able to regularise their illegal status. This is the promise being touted by unscrupulous mafia gangs operating in northern Morocco who charge up to £800 for a perilous passage. Many hopefuls are scrambling to "jump the Strait", believing that this will be their last chance to enter Europe. Most of them will be detained and deported. Today's deadline allows only

those who were already resident in Spain before 1 January 1996, and in possession of a work permit, to apply to regularise their situation. It is the fruit of an agreement in February to modify Spain's restrictive Foreigners' Law of 1985.

Trade unions say the objective was to improve the conditions of legions of immigrant workers by allowing those whose work permits had expired to renew them. So far 13,000 have applied, but the immigration spokesman for the Workers' Commissions

union, Francisco Soriano, says up to 50,000 foreigners who lost their work permits are eligible, even under the interior ministry's restrictive terms.

Queues have been stretching round police stations all this week as immigrants without documents, often long resident in Spain, seek to put their papers in order. The government said it would not extend the deadline, despite pleas from trade unions, which fear that many will never reach the head of the queue in time.

Experts say the flow of migrants will continue. "It is no good harassing immigrants like common delinquents, as if they had committed a crime," says Julio Martínez Firvida, of the immigrants' support organisation in Algeciras. "They are only trying to escape a desperate situation in their own countries. Tighter controls won't solve anything."

Mr Soriano says the regulation will do nothing to improve the condition of thousands of illegal workers who cannot claim social security and who remain

under the constant threat of being reported to the authorities.

The operation was criticised by human rights groups for its disregard for democratic procedures. The UN human rights commissioner, Jose Ayala Lasso, last week warned the Spanish government "not to commit the error of applying methods alien to human dignity in controlling immigration".

Within days of the Central Africans being flown out of Melilla, scores more had entered the enclave to replace them.

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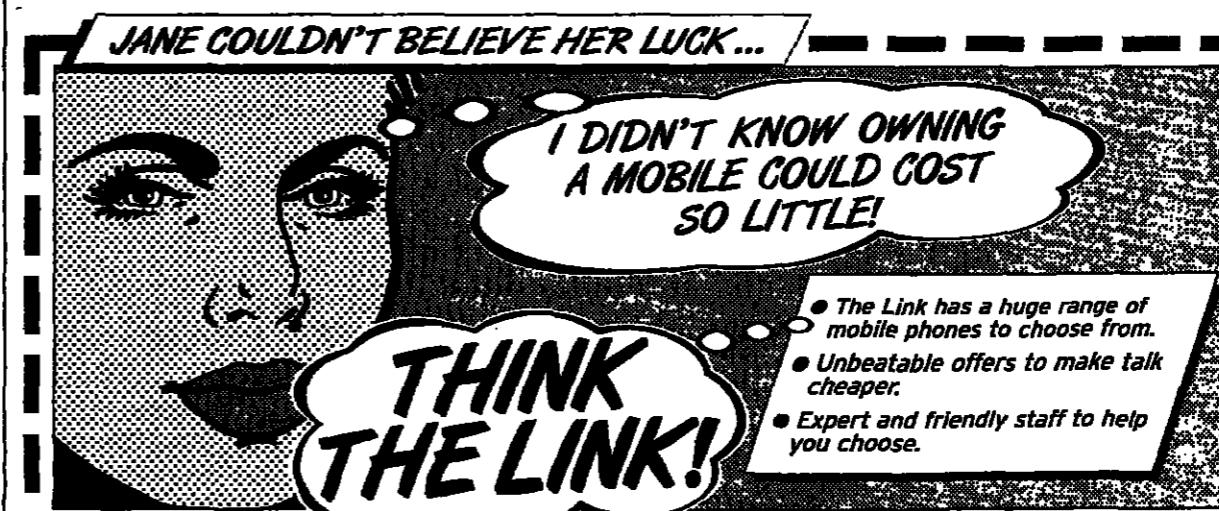
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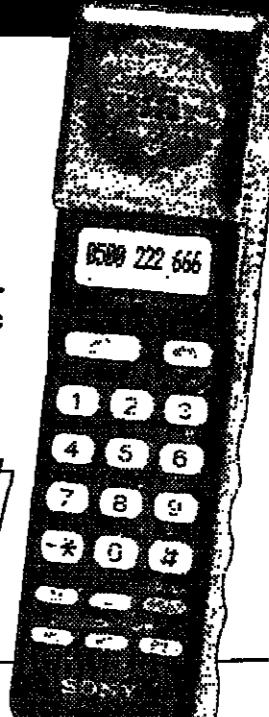
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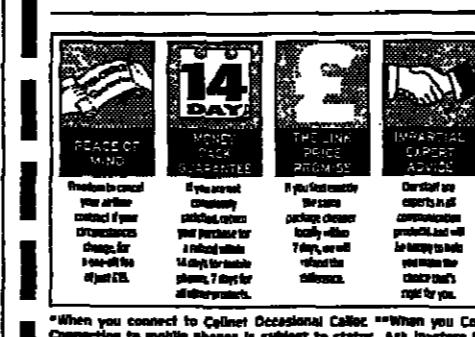
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## international



Paramount leader: Although it is hard to imagine that Deng Xiaoping has direct input on policy, his influence remains strong

# Contenders line up for power when Deng goes

Leaders gather to plot strategy as countdown begins to crucial party congress, writes **Teresa Poole** in Peking

Behind closed doors, in the leadership villas hidden in the hills above the seaside resort of Beidaihe, an election season "with Chinese characteristics" is under way. China may have one of the world's most opaque political systems, but with only a year or so to go until the 15th Communist Party Congress, there are top jobs to play for and personal power bases to be maintained.

Every August, the inner clique of China's party and military leadership gathers at Beidaihe, north-east of Peking, for a concilium. This year the members will forge a consensus on the party document for autumn's annual party plenum, at which an ideological blast in favour of "spiritual civilisation" is expected to be the main tenet. But all eyes are looking towards the full congress scheduled for autumn next year, an event which takes place only once every five years.

Critical decisions will then have to be made, including the choice of successor to Li Peng as Prime Minister, a probable restructuring of the party hier-

archy and key appointments to the ones who sit on the Central Military Commission. "The next party congress will be such an important one in terms of personnel and structures," said one Peking diplomat.

One man, it is safe to assume, is not at Beidaihe this year. No debate will take place without some invoking his name. Deng Xiaoping has defied so many predictions of his imminent demise, and yesterday celebrated his 92nd birthday. His health is frail, and it is hard to imagine he has a direct political input these days, but even as an ailing paramount leader he still hovers over the party's decision makers.

Mr Deng's survival is both a help and a hindrance to President Jiang Zemin, the announced "core" of the leadership. While Mr Deng lives, it is difficult for anyone to challenge his choice of Mr Jiang as head of state, party chief and head of

army. But the endurance of Mr Deng also restrains Mr Jiang's ability to depart from his mentor's path and put his own stamp on policy.

Most analysts believe that the longer Mr Deng survives, the better it is for Mr Jiang. However, the next year will be a testing time for the President, as he tries to secure the top-level personnel changes he needs to buttress his position.

Analysts believe there is broad agreement within the leadership about continuing reforms, and that the real debate revolves round the pace of change. But there are factions which must be appeased, as personal ambition runs rampant and contenders manoeuvre for jobs.

The first key decision for the congress is who will be the new Prime Minister. Under the constitution, Mr Li must retire at the National People's Congress (NPC) in March 1998, having

served two terms. Potential successors include Zhu Rongji, Li Lanqing, and Wu Bangguo.

Mr Zhu, the economics tsar, will be 68 this October, which could mean his age is against him, although his appointment would mean economic reform is on track. Li Lanqing, 64, looks a strong contender, but is not a member of the standing committee of the politburo.

Mr Wu, at 55, has age on his side, but may be too identified with the Shanghai clique to win support. Mr Jiang has been criticised for promoting too many colleagues from his home base.

Then there is the question of what to do with Li Peng, a political fighter who shows no sign of wanting a quieter life.

There is much speculation that the structure of the Communist Party may be due for changes. At the moment, Mr Jiang heads the party as general secretary. In the past, the top job was chairman. Analysts suggest that if Mr Jiang were to become chairman of the party, Mr Li could sit as a vice-chairman.

This might also lead to a change for the man often considered the most powerful backroom player in any shift of power after Mr Deng's death: Qiao Shi, former chief party disciplinarian and now chairman

of the National People's Congress, is seen as the leader of the faction arguing for greater "rule by law". One Western diplomat said: "Qiao Shi is more and more to the fore in speculation about whom a challenge to Jiang Zemin might be constructed.

At 71, Mr Qiao might be expected to step down from the NPC, and emerge as a vice-chairman of the party. But this could lead to a bitter fight with Mr Li over who would be senior.

Mr Jiang also has to juggle the demands of the military, whose support for his leadership is imperative. The party congress must decide a new line-up for the party's Central Military Commission, which controls the army. Mr Jiang is chairman, but two of the four vice-chairmen, Generals Liu Huaiqing and Zhang Zhen, are due to retire. Both are Long March veterans who have maintained a firm influence on the party.

Mr Jiang has strong cards in his favour. Next year he will preside over the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty, which is being used to whip up Chinese nationalism and portray him as the successor to Chairman Mao and Mr Deng.

On the economic front, inflation has fallen to acceptable levels and the United States is holding out the carrot of a possible exchange of state visits – just the sort of theatre appreciated by an heir apparent.

Key figures in the struggle



Jiang Zemin: Annointed core of the leadership



Qiao Shi: To the fore in speculation about who might be constructed



Li Peng: 19 months left to serve as Prime Minister

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## ANC admits abuses but 'fought just war'

**MARY BRAID**  
Cape Town

The African National Congress yesterday made its fullest confession of human rights violations but argued that there was no moral equivalence between its acts of violence and those of the apartheid government.

Thabo Mbeki, the country's president-in-waiting, presented the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the body which was created to heal the nation by laying bare the abuses of the apartheid years, with a 100-page report which included a list of 34 members who were executed by the ANC in Angolan training camps and an admission that some cadres were killed after being falsely accused of spying.

After Mr Mbeki's three-hour testimony, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Commission's chairman, congratulated the ANC on being the first party to use the word "sorry". The ANC's evidence came the day after FW de Klerk, the former president and leader of the National Party (NP), offered a qualified apology to the nation for apartheid and past mistakes.

The NP submission was short on detail. Mr de Klerk denied all knowledge of state-backed hit squads, and preferred to focus on the "terrorist" bombings and attacks carried out by the ANC.

Yesterday Mr Mbeki said that the commission's investigation into human rights abuses must take into account that apartheid was "one of the most odious and vicious political systems of the 20th century"; a system judged by the United Nations to be a crime against humanity.

"The overwhelming majority of actions carried out in the course of the just war of national liberation do not constitute 'gross violations of human rights' as defined by the act establishing and mandating the TRC," he said. Even "neck-lacing", he said, had to be seen against the background of institutionalised state violence.

The ANC had adopted the armed struggle only after decades of futile peaceful lobbying. It was "a last, rather than first, resort", he said. The organisation had always resisted

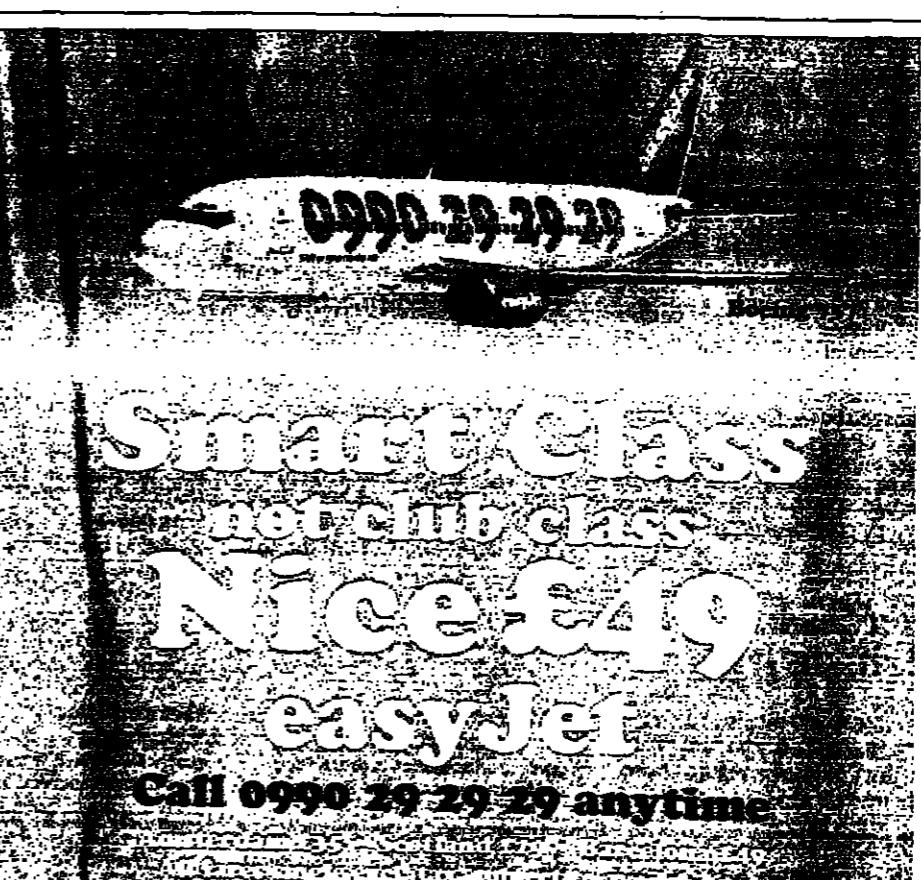
"Of course there is a world of difference between the violence of the oppressor and the oppressed," said Dr Boraine. "The Dutch resistance fighters to Nazi occupation killed and killed but they were heroes against an abhorrent system. The fact is this commission is not about justice. It is about truth and reconciliation and national healing. Any other approach would have split this country in half."

He said the commission could only be understood against the background of a negotiated settlement. "If the struggle had been won on the battlefield there would have been a victor and vanquished and the victor would have dictated terms."

Dr Boraine said that in spite of yesterday's testimony Mr Mbeki understood that vacating the moral high ground was the price the ANC had paid for the peaceful transition of power.

Yesterday the ANC said it accepted "collective responsibility" for the violence it had orchestrated. This contrasted sharply with Mr de Klerk's refusal to take responsibility for murders carried out by the security forces although he admitted the NP had created the conditions which allowed them to take place.

While its view that ANC violence had no special legitimacy may go unchallenged, the NP can expect some tough questioning on the limits of responsibility when the political parties return to the commission later this year. Yesterday Mr Boraine warned that he could not accept Mr de Klerk's distinction between the government and its functionaries. "They were as one," he said.



Bryn Estyn  
school in  
the 1960s

heroes of the  
British beaches

## the leader page

## Too blinded by the Bard to recognise true talent

**D**r Eric Sams, the great Shakespearean, is convinced the Bard wrote the play *Edward III*. If true the attribution not only boosts the canon to 39 but rounds out nicely the great historical cycle that ends with *Richard III*. Dr Sams's call is based on painstaking scholarly detective work – gigabytes are now routinely applied to tracing metre and meaning across time and space. Like Ariadne he follows the thread in and out of Elizabethan court politics and weaves much clever stuff of his own.

The life of Edward, under whom the King of the Scots had died in prison, gave the playwright a chance to be rude about the Scots. At the time this was politically incorrect, since the Scots were mostly religious allies in a hostile world. Railing at the Scots became especially dangerous after Elizabeth recognised Mary's son, James, as her heir – which, of course, she never formally did, though she let it be known through what passed at Richmond and Greenwich for sources close to the Palace.

It's all great stuff and tremendous fun. But at the end of the day you are tempted to ask, who gives a fig? Dr Sams's excitement about *Edward III* may win that disputed play a staging and it may, in the hands of a Hands or even a Rylance, turn out to be a grand performance. But does the identity of the author matter to the qualities of the play? Besides, all this attributive politicking comes at a cost.

The real question is whether we have become so fixated by artistic names – the cult of genius – that we are depriving ourselves of great swathes of culture which deserves to be recalled and consumed for what it is, not for its author's fame. Most theatre managers would say that the tourists and casual theatre-goers need a name; the brand matters. Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* is a vastly better play than this "new" Shakespeare, but it is likely to be less of a crowd-puller.

In the theatre, as in the plastic arts and the novel, attention and fame get heaped on those already famous. Shakespeare, as the name who wows them from Calgary to Cochin, the set book, the top of the reading list, exemplifies the historical triumph of the auteur or individualist theory in art. For all the noise made by the structuralists and the deconstructionists, they have made no real inroad into the way we think about high cultural production: lone man at desk with quill, solo painter in atelier, Mahlerian composer anguishing tenuously on an alpine summit.

This way of thinking about art means that the juvenile leavings and hack-work of the great names are promoted and discussed at the expense of much better works. More, they are elevated to semi-sacred status. Every word or pencil-line by a genius is guarded by the academic keepers of the flame. In Shakespearean studies, this causes end-

less problems and argument; was that line his or that of some lesser hand; did the Bard, could the Bard, have been responsible for that substandard stanza? Shakespeare himself would have been flattered but bemused. He lived and worked in the age before the divine artist, and before marketing, when beggar, borrowing and stealing material was common – great chunks of Macbeth are lifted from *Holinshed's chronicles*, which themselves were hardly original.

Shakespeare plays were all part collective productions, compounds of manuscript, *ad lib*, revision on stage and – who knows – intervention by ground-

lings. Early on they were works in progress, the common property of the troupe and its patrons. His special gifts make most of them gleam, though there are bad jokes, weak lines and lame couplets aplenty. Other, lesser, playwrights collaborated heavily – one of the most enjoyable plays of the era, *The Witch of Edmonton*, is by three authors, at least. The same processes could be widely seen in the pre-modern arts; atlantes and "schools" of Flemish and Italian painting; music picked up and endlessly adapted by sometimes obscure German Kapellmeister.

Today, by contrast, we are children

of the cult of the romantic genius. We are dazzled, still, by the sublime models of the past few centuries and as a result we perhaps over-emphasise individual genius.

Getting over-excited by bad Shakespeare (and anyone who thinks there is no bad Shakespeare should try *Titus Andronicus*) leads to him being locked up inside the canon. Allan Bloom, the American, had good reasons to attempt to set down a central list of "great" works of western civilisation: he was contending with growing illiteracy among American college students and the casual relativism of academic colleagues who rated their authors and painters simply because they were not dead, white or male. But canonicisation excludes. It directs the spotlight centre-stage when just off in the darkness there are writers and creators of talent. It leads to the ridiculous doctrine that the lesser works of the greats are necessarily better than the great works of lesser creators.

So Mozart's juvenilia are preferred to the mature works of Cherubini or Hummel. "School of" becomes a term of abuse. The greatest novels of RS Surtees and Thackeray, Smollett and Grasic Gibbon, are overshadowed by lesser works by Dickens or George Eliot. The Bard hides a gallery of contemporaries from Marston to Middleton, Dekker to John Ford who are, at their best, wonderful. It is mildly fun to "discover" a Shakespeare attribution, and legal brain to use them.

or a possible Bronte novel. But there are many much more exciting discoveries in the mildewed back-rooms of second-hand bookshops or local libraries. They don't get front-page stories or academic seminars, but they are the rich and vivid flesh of our culture.

## Excise needs new customs

Customs and Excise is the department responsible for collecting VAT and levying duty on petrol and alcohol. The Scott report on arms to Iraq showed, however, that the range of its functions sometimes exceeded its capacity – its performance in that affair smacked of amateurism. In recent years, Customs has sought to stave off the job cuts that ought to have followed from trade liberalisation in Europe by carving out a new role for itself in policing drugs. Much of its work is well done. But the National Audit Office yesterday had some hard words for its efforts to retrieve money from drug traffickers. Given the size of its drug hauls, Customs officers should really have collected more than such paltry sums. This is a department that needs to throw away its ancient cocked hats and swords and install some high-powered computers, and legal brain to use them.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Bryn Estyn school in the 1960s

**S**ir: Former staff at Bryn Estyn CFE wish to protest most strongly against the impression conveyed by Roger Dobson's article entitled "25-year cover-up of victims in care" (20 June). Those who were present at the time and gave evidence to the board of governors know that this headline and the rest of the article is a travesty of the truth.

Staff became concerned about the emotional stability of a new headmaster. In an HMC-approved school which contained over 100 convicted juvenile delinquents from Wales and the north-west of England, a level-headed approach and firm hand was needed at the helm, which the headmaster, by virtue of a serious medical condition, was unable to provide.

The headmaster started to fall asleep on duty, and when he began to lose his temper and physically attack boys, the staff met to discuss a form of action, following which an official complaint was made to the board of governors.

Staff recall that events moved very quickly and within a short time they were called into the board room to give evidence to the board of governors. Staff acknowledged the good work the headmaster had done previously, and recognised that a medical condition was affecting his behaviour.

Members of the board knew the staff and the boys well and quickly came to a decision. The headmaster resigned and a new principal was appointed in the course. Everyone concerned with the event at the time regarded the incident as being correctly and fairly dealt with and closed.

The *Independent's* treatment of this uncomplicated yet regrettable incident, which deserves praise for the integrity and courage of the staff, has been turned upside down.

The article states that "boys were regularly kicked, punched, thrown, kneed and viciously beaten by named staff members", "physical abuse was widespread in the 1960s", and "when one alleged perpetrator was quizzed".

This most misleading account has distorted events in such a manner that readers are deceived into believing that more than one member of staff was involved, and that abuse was widespread. Readers are not informed that it was the decision of the staff to report the headmaster. The fact is that one sick man began behaving badly, and was stopped by the prompt and correct action of staff.

Readers of the article are being misled by inaccurate phrases such as, "children's school", and "residential school", when they deserve to be informed that Bryn Estyn was an approved school managed by the Home Office, to which convicted young offenders were sent by the courts.

JOHN RAYFIELD  
Secretary,  
Bryn Estyn Staff Group



'OK, Mr Howard, prove it. Say something vacuous'

a week from May to September. The service is equipped as she suggests with radios and a public address system, and also has support from a rescue boat and the Red Cross volunteers.

I spent several happy summers until 1986 as part of the Brighton lifeguard crew and can assure Liz Loughran that should she visit our town she will enjoy excellent care from my former colleagues, though they may be a little less bronzed than their French or television counterparts.

IAN SANDERS  
Brighton  
East Sussex

essentially social values of the Labour Party.

While it is not too difficult to envisage the zealous Dr Mawhinney in the guise of the 17th-century Witch-Finder General, Matthew Hopkins, one might have hoped that Lord Searchi would have done a little more in-depth research to earn his new title.

LM LEWIS  
Emeritus Professor of Anthropology  
London School of Economics  
London NW3

## Fight for EU democracy

Sir: Congratulations on your front page report (20 August) on the lack of democracy in EU decision-making – though this comes as no surprise to British Labour MEPs. We have consistently campaigned for greater openness and transparency in the way European legislation is enacted and pressed successfully for the European Parliament's submission to the inter-governmental conference to include a demand for reforms on these lines.

In this objective we will support from the new Nordic member states of Sweden and Finland, plus Denmark and the Netherlands, though we know there will be resistance from certain governments, especially those of Britain, France and Germany. These are countries whose governments and civil services are sadly inured in a tradition of secrecy. In this they are

sometimes aided by European bureaucrats with a similar attitude of mind.

One vital step in achieving more openness is to ensure a greater and more integrated role for both European and national parliamentarians in approving all European legislation. As a first step, the European Parliament has initiated joint meetings of MEPs and national MPs serving on similar parliamentary committees. However, only with the support of all EU governments can this aim be fully realised and persuading them to agree will not be an easy task.

Our objective must be to ensure, at the very least, that policy decisions made jointly at the EU level should be as open to parliamentary debate and scrutiny as well as to public awareness at an early stage, as we would expect to be the case for legislation adopted in our own country.

MICHAEL ELLIOTT MP  
(London West, Lab)  
London W13

Si: Congratulations for being the first to spot the "non-entered candidates" syndrome ("Pupils dumped in exam race", 21 August). It's been going on for years at A-level. Here's how it works, for a school with a position in the league tables to maintain.

1. Admit almost anyone to the sixth form (money follows the pupil and you need all you can get).

2. Set tough exams at the end of lower sixth, to weed out the weakest lot – if they don't pass they can't continue (but you've got the money for a two-year course, so that's OK).

3. After mocks, don't enter anyone who's "only" going to get grade C or less (you don't want to bring down your league table position, do you?). Of course he or she can always enter privately, but private entries don't appear on the school's results.

As a head of sixth form from 1989-94, in a school which does not operate like this, I observed this system developing and saw students' careers being permanently damaged. It is the inevitable result if you put together: a) money follows the pupil; and b) judgement by league tables.

GILL JEFFORD  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire

Si: Another marginal rise has been shown in those who achieve five grades A-C or above at GCSE. Far more worrying is the bleak future of those who will leave school with no qualifications whatsoever. This cohort of pupils is rising at twice the rate of those who achieve five decent grades.

Until and unless league tables take account both of individual starting points and learning distance travelled by each pupil, they will remain discriminatory and hide the scale of failure within our education and training system.

The recent National Skills Audit, bravely commissioned by Gillian

Shephard, confirms the urgency of raising the basic and general skills of all our pupils. Failure to do so will result in Britain's social and economic ruin as thousands of young people become reluctant burdens on the state, rather than making an active contribution to it.

ANNE WEINSTOCK  
Chief Executive  
Rachbone C/I  
Manchester

## Teeth of the evidence

Sir: I read with interest the article (19 August) on "The cost of growing", not least because of the curious notions of infant dentition it contained. In the first paragraph we were told of "gap-toothed offspring on that first momentous day at school". Surely more a feature of the Year 1 or Year 2 photo than the reception class.

It got better – "the potential for up to eight visits from the tooth fairy". My children have each had 20 first teeth and the tooth fairy is continuing to work her way through them – and the parental purse. I guess a child who has the potential for only eight tooth fairy visits will indeed look very gap-toothed on the first day at school.

FIONA ROBERTSON  
Planning Division  
University of Bradford

Si: Cleavage Castilian-style ("A come-on, or a kind of armour", 22 August) as reported by John Hay in *Castilian Days* (1871). "A maiden of fifteen said to me: 'I must go to a party this evening décolleté, and I hate it. Benign is getting old enough to marry, and he wants to see all the girls in low neck before he makes up his mind.'"

GRAEME WRIGHT  
Eastgate  
Middlesex

## Lord of misrule?

Sir: Is the Monster Raving Tory Party to be led by Screaming Lord Searchi?

## Heroes of the British beaches

Sir: I am delighted Liz Loughran was reunited with her lost son by French lifeguards (letters, 21 August). However, her assertion that no such service exists here is thankfully incorrect.

Brighton council operates a team of lifeguards stationed all along the town seafront seven days

## analysis

# Why privatising Channel 4 will impoverish us all

The fate of the broadcaster is about more than industry. It's about moral life, says Anthony Smith

**E**very year, in tandem with the public arts festival in Edinburgh, there is a television conference for paying guests attended by everybody who is anybody in UK television. One issue that is hanging over the television festival this year (and which will be formally debated on Monday) is whether the Government will include a commitment in its election manifesto to privatise Channel 4—or, indeed, whether Tony Blair himself might look to selling off Channel 4 as a possible honeypot.

Channel 4 is a commercial organisation that occupies a public space. Its continued existence is richly justified by its record and by a set of criteria that have become unfashionable in the 1990s mood. It can serve minorities; it can ignore majorities; it can experiment in any direction it believes right; it can fail and fail again with projects; it can offend anyone; it can be unpredictable; and it can invent its own criteria of success.

Moreover, it can, if it wishes, cock a snook at such sacred cows as news values, ratings success, the star system. It can give its main slots to novices and let them find their feet. It can back new ideas until they succeed. Of course, the BBC can and should pursue somewhat similar policies, but the corporation has also the wider remit to serve the mainstream audience with mainstream material and has unfortunately largely forgotten that it possesses the luxury of cultural freedom. All the same, it was the presence of Channel 4 that revived BBC2 after some dull years in the 1980s.

We in Britain, have managed to preserve, despite auctions for franchises, despite the breaking of the ITV monopoly of advertising, despite the advent of the competition-inducing Independent Television Commission, a commercial television system in which each competitor pursues a different mission, in the case of Channel 4 a completely different mission. This is very far from, say, the competitive pattern of the

United States. Unfortunately, the last round of broadcasting legislation left the ITV companies in a cannibalistic feeding frenzy and the result has been precisely the kind of disaster that was predicted. The money available for programme-making has been squeezed relative to the total income available to the companies, because the reformed auction-founded franchises are liable to corporate takeover and encouraged towards every possible economy of scale.

There is less and less "waste" in the system, but it was the excess of facilities and cash over immediate need that

### Channel 4 reaches out in the most creative ways

helped British commercial broadcasting to flourish during much of its 35-year history.

Today Channel 4 enjoys the privilege of being able to generate more income than it needs for survival; and moreover, unlike the old ITV, it has no shareholders looking for massive dividend hand-outs every year. Its umbilical cord to the ITV system now severed, Channel 4 has become the more prosperous of the entities, no to City analysts to keep happy — only the programme-makers, the audiences and the advertisers. It has come through its first 15 years, including one major structural change, rather triumphantly.

Channel 4's tentacles reach out into our society in the most interesting and creative ways. It competes for audiences, but it has also constructed new constituencies within the general audience. Moreover, its special remit to "innovate", to extend viewer choice and encourage diversity, has meant that it has influenced the rest of our television broadcasting over the last 10 or more years in the most constructive ways. Its early history was chock-a-block with innovation: from the creation of the "video box" for viewers'



An original view: Derek Jarman's 'Sebastiane' was just one of the films shown by Channel 4 that other broadcasters saw as untelevsible

Ronald Grant Archive

comments, and the relaying of news programmes direct from Ireland, to the screening of such thought-to-be untelevsible feature films as Derek Jarman's *Sebastiane*.

Channel 4 is constituted in such a way as to require constant critical approval, but with something of a separation between that approval and its revenue flow. With the only national advertising signal in British terrestrial television, it has a plentiful source of revenue. It boasts in successive annual reports of the incremental growth in its advertising revenue, but if its board so desired it could aim at collecting the minimum necessary to

cover the costs of its programme-making, and thereafter contribute to the other cultural and educational causes which, in the long run, will provide the material for future television programmes. The advent of multi-channel digital television might in the course of time exert a downward pressure on these streams of revenue, as might cable and satellite, but

### Privatisation would bring the prospect of takeover

these anxieties can be placed in the more distant future.

I do not wish to give the impression that I think Channel 4 has fully exploited its own freedoms and opportunities, nor that it has used them always unfailingly wisely. I am among those who feel angry and disappointed with much of the channel's output; for example it seems to be buying in a great deal of make-weight stuff which might have been better left on the shelves of the international television trade fairs. It has neglected, in my view, its duty of scouring the country (and the international scene) for new talent and new ideas —

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## the commentators

4

## Forgiveness: a strategy against war

Other societies should follow the example of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

"The National Party is prepared to admit its many mistakes of the past and is genuinely repentant ... and we have gone on our knees before God Almighty to pray for His forgiveness," said ex-president de Klerk before the South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town this week. It is not a term that is familiar to modern political discourse: forgiveness. "Never apologise, never explain," is the politician's usual motto. The concept is unusual enough anywhere in public life that it provokes comment whenever it surfaces. It got 71-year-old cancer sufferer Sir Conrad Swan into the news yesterday when he said outside the court that he forgave the hit-and-run Porsche driver who killed his wife. Indeed the last time it surfaced in a significant way was nine years ago after the bomb at the Ulster Volunteer Force memorial when Gordon Wilson, the father whose daughter died holding his hand in the rubble, amazed the world by announcing immediately that he was forgiving the IRA.

And yet the conditions for forgiveness in the modern world are ripe. Since the fall of Communism and the democratisation which has followed the end of military dictatorships in the

Third World, society after society has confronted the same question: how to deal with the offences of the past and heal the rifts they have caused.

It is, of course, a culturally defined issue. That became clear when war veterans demanded an apology of the Japanese on the 50th anniversary of VJ-Day. In the event the gap could not be bridged between the Japanese culture of shame, where the ultimate betrayal is the violation of a common trust, and the Western culture of guilt, where it is an inner code of conscience which is supposed to govern behaviour. Such differences must cast doubt on the likely efficacy, or desirability, of the notion that a UN International War Crimes Tribunal should be inaugurated to sit as a permanent body.

Even within the Judeo-Christian tradition coming to terms with the past has been handled in different ways. Most countries have gone for truth or reconciliation, but not both. In Argentina members of the former regime have owned up to crimes, but knowing that a pardon was promised (a pardon is not forgiveness, merely a decision to allow an offence to go unpunished). In Chile the villains of the Pinochet era have been allowed to slide



PAUL VALLEY

off into the past. In El Salvador the US-backed government assassins are still around, with their misdeeds simply publicly unacknowledged. East Germans staged some trials, but many of them were inconclusive; in a country where as many as 10 per cent of the population worked for the secret police, guilt is something that appears to attach to a state, a culture and an entire people rather than to individuals. In the UK, recent pursuit of Nazi war criminals in their eighties in Surrey or Edinburgh has highlighted our own ambivalences.

The question this begs is: who forgives? Can it truly be only the victims or their relatives, those who suffered from the offence and who need justice to provide an end to their awful unfinished story? Or can society take it

upon itself to forgive on their behalf, even as it dispenses justice on the grounds that the victims are too partisan to pronounce fairly?

In part that depends on whether forgiveness is an emotion or an act of will. It depends too where the crime is located. In the past causality has always traced sin back to the morally culpable acts of individuals. More recently moral theologians have perceived that evil can be inherent in systems whose structures must be transformed if social justice is to be achieved. The Pope has written recently of "influences and obstacles which go far beyond the actions and brief lifespan of an individual". He had in mind systems of unfair trade that keep the Third World poor, but the notion is equally applicable to the system of apartheid.

FW de Klerk acknowledged as much this week. "We are all children of our times and the product of the cultural and political circumstances into which we were born and with which we grew up," he told Desmond Tutu's commission. "Obviously, there rests an overall responsibility on the leadership of the various parties, organisations and institutions which were part of the conflict ... I accept

such overall responsibility in respect of the period of my leadership."

Of course, there are those who have cast doubt on his sincerity. And yet, even if his apology is rooted only in expediency, it performs a valued function. One of the lessons of history is that without apology and a plea for forgiveness some wounds never heal. That is the story of Northern Ireland, of Bosnia and of Cyprus, which until recently some of us fondly assumed had gone away. Such ranking is what lies behind apparently foolish suggestions that the United States should apologise for Columbus or Europe for the Crusades.

Forgiveness, then, may be a utilitarian strategy as much as an ethical imperative. It can be rooted in secular concepts of virtues and vices, rights and duties, rewards and retributions, as much as in the Methodism of Mandela or the *subversum bonum* of Archbishop Tutu's Christian interaction of forgiveness, love, justice.

For it is the possibility of forgiveness which makes remorse feasible. Remorse is the start of reparation. Reparation is the beginning of rebuilding the process of trust. And without trust no society can ever come to be at peace with itself.

## BOOK REVIEW

The Day Before Yesterday: Reconsidering America's past, Rediscovering the Present

Michael Elliott

Simon and Schuster, New York, £25

## Waking from the American Dream

A foreigner arriving in the US in this election season will notice its invisible presence. It is invoked in every candidate's speech: its condition is monitored as closely as a car crash victim in intensive care. It is, of course, the "American Dream" – variably held to be vibrant or fading, re-emerging or imperilled, depending on whether the speaker is in or out of office.

"Restoring the American Dream" was the slogan of the Republican convention in San Diego, where even the dour Bob Dole acquired oratorical wings as he spoke about the better America of his youth. I know, because I was there. I have seen it." A few days later, Ross Perot proclaimed: "I have lived the American Dream," promising that if elected President he would ensure that anyone else could be a billionaire if they really wanted. And as surely as Lake Michigan laps at the shores of Chicago, Bill Clinton will be extolling the Dream in the Windy City next week.

But what is the Dream – and if it is so lofty and inspiring why do most modern Americans whine so much about their lot? No matter that the economic recovery is now in its sixth year, that unemployment is half that of Europe and inflation next to non-existent, and America stands proud and unchallenged as the world's guardian superpower. Alas, for its lucky but complaining inhabitants, this is not enough. Poll after poll shows a large majority convinced that the country is "on the wrong track".

Such is the paradox of modern America which Michael Elliott masterfully explains. His thesis is simple: that the country is living under a crippling illusion, that one single period of exceptional harmony and prosperity has been the natural birthright of every American, from the Founding Fathers to the present day. Instead, as Mr Elliott argues, this period by which all is measured was a freak, lasting from 1945 to the late 1960s (indeed its end might be dated to the riots of August 1968, the last time the Democrats gathered in Chicago). It was when family values truly reigned, when wives did not have to work and when *I Love Lucy* and *Sergeant Bilko* ruled the airwaves. Every year grew better off, year after year. This was what later generations have mythologised as the "American Dream".

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

America today is not so much going to the dogs as reverting to type

Of course the Golden Age couldn't last. Alas, for people who were children or young adults in those years – among them Bill Clinton, Bob Dole and the generations who run today's America – it was the formative period.

In fact, America today is not so much going to the dogs as reverting to type. Perhaps the verb in the subtitle of Mr Elliott's book should be reversed. The American past is not so much to be reconsidered, as rediscovered. For in so many ways the modern US resembles America before the First World War. That too was a turbulent, messy, violent but infinitely creative place. Just as now, huge earlier waves of immigration were changing the face of the country. Just as it leads the information revolution today, so America led the revolutions of electricity and mechanisation a century or more ago. Then as now, unsettling change was a constant. If only Americans had politicians who dared tell them so, instead of engaging in a bidding war of impossible promises – how much sinner and more contented the country would be, if only. Welcome to Campaign '96.

Such is the paradox of modern America which Michael Elliott masterfully explains. His thesis is simple: that the country is living under a crippling illusion, that one single period of exceptional harmony and prosperity has been the natural birthright of every American, from the Founding Fathers to the present day. Instead, as Mr Elliott argues, this period by which all is measured was a freak, lasting from 1945 to the late 1960s (indeed its end might be dated to the riots of August 1968, the last time the Democrats gathered in Chicago). It was when family values truly reigned, when wives did not have to work and when *I Love Lucy* and *Sergeant Bilko* ruled the airwaves. Every year grew better off, year after year. This was what later generations have mythologised as the "American Dream".

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

## Is Boris Yeltsin dead?

And if he were, would we know it?  
Peter Popham looks at rumours – exaggerated and otherwise – of the demise of great figures

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone.  
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone.  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum  
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come...

Yeltsin is only the latest Soviet leader to have his true state of health shrouded in clouds of obfuscation. Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko were similarly treated. Where succession is uncertain, and its consequences likely to be terrifying, too much depends on keeping the old boys going for somebody to be interested in telling the truth.

In China, where Deng Xiaoping turned 92 yesterday (Happy Birthday, Mr Deng), periodic bulletins declare him to be active, in good spirits, keenly interested in national affairs, and in "excellent health"; but he has not been seen in public for three years, and a Hong Kong tabloid reports that £800 a day is being spent in the effort to keep him alive. Because once he is gone, no matter how feeble his condition in his last years, it's like the roof beam falling in, everything changes, in the most alarming and unpredictable fashion.

When life finally ebbs away, even the most byzantine regime must eventually concede the fact. El Cid, dead but strapped upright in his saddle to appear alive, served his Spanish forces well, but was eventually accorded a decent burial. But where leadership is in the spiritual sphere, things can get much more complicated. When Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the leader of the Lubavitch sect of Hassidic Jews, lost the power of speech after a stroke in 1994, some of his followers interpreted his hand gestures to mean that he was *declaring himself the Messiah*.

News of the death of the fifth Dalai Lama reached his followers only 10 years after the event, while the Shingon sect of esoteric Buddhism in Japan maintains that its founder, Kobo Daishi, transcended death altogether: his mummified body, legs crossed in the lotus posture, still occupies his old meditation hut, and his dis-



Pictures of health: Castro, Yeltsin, Deng Xiaoping, the Queen Mother, John Major Montage: Jonathan Anstey

plies bring him meals every day.

Power and the living image of the powerful are so closely intertwined that you disentangle them at your peril.

In Stalinist societies, the leader's life and the regime's survival became inextricably linked, and nothing any insider said on the subject was believed. Hence the army of Kremlinologists and Peking watchers and Pyongyang specialists of old, examining satellite photographs to see who's in, who's out, who's dead. Rumours of death surrounded North Korea's dictator, Kim Il Sung, from at least 1986, when he was rumoured to have been assassinated. When he finally died in July 1994, it took the authorities the best part of another year to embalm him, by which time

observers were beginning to speculate about the health of his son and heir.

At long range, it is easy to get things wrong. Ten years ago the dollar took a battering when the Japanese thought President Ronald Reagan was dead. A Tokyo banker had misunderstood a chance remark about the state of health of Lonnie Donegan.

Back home, of course, it all appears far more cosy: everyone knows that John Major is on his hols, the Queen Mother is at Balmoral (although not long ago the Australian woke up one morning to false reports of her demise), and at least where matters of life and death are concerned, our machinery of government is impressively transparent. Yet looked at from

afar, would such complicity appear to be justified? A Pyongyang-based London watcher might point out that it's only 40 years since Sir Winston Churchill's massive stroke and subsequent incapacity, totally hushed up by a servile press. How much has changed, they might ask. Like Yeltsin, Major seems to take remarkably long holidays. In the latest scrap over putting the Union Flag on the new driving licence, Major's input has been conspicuous only by its absence. And what about his fabled greyness, a sure sign of morbidity? Perhaps the bizarre truth is that he died long ago. As Dorothy Parker remarked when told of the death of Calvin Coolidge, "How can they tell?"

## THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES



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All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the Independent

totally new skills – such as a language at native fluency – as well after this age as before. The apparatus of extra circuitry is metabolically just too expensive to keep on lugging around.

From the late teens on the brain has slowed so much that it's taking only 20 per cent of the body's oxygen supplies – half a four-year-old's level. There aren't going to be any new brain cells produced from here on, so the ones inside are well guarded. Blood entering the cranium gets filtered with a thoroughness matched only within the testes – another container whose internal protection is recommended for species survival.

It's tempting to think that the insides of this fortress brain are divided into distinct areas, with separate parts for reason, emotions and vision, and a controlling sector on top of it all. But everything's much more dispersed. Vision, for example, isn't just a matter of carrying miniature copies of what the eye registers deeper into the brain. Even while still at the retina, the signal gets a first processing to boost the intensity of angles and edges. Then, once it's cable to the main visual analysis centre at the back of the head, the truly surreal separations begin. Signals dealing with movement are ripped away and shuttled to one area; signals dealing

with overall shape, colour and depth are pushed on to others. Similar deconstructions take place with our memory, word recognition, and other functions of the brain.

This is why strokes can be such an odd catastrophe. Destructions in the visual movement centre will make a street full of speeding cars seem desolately empty, with only the occasional parked car being noticed. One woman with a lesion in this area could see tea when it was in an open pot, but when someone started pouring, it suddenly seemed to disappear for her. Only once it was settled in her cup, static enough for functioning brain groupings to take over, would it pop back into existence.

Increase the magnification down to the individual cells that carry our dispersed self around, and an even stranger landscape appears. Any vision of a controlling centre has vanished. Guarded, long brain cells stretch forward in the darkness, laboriously pumping their electrical signals along. Since the cell endings don't quite touch, bubbling molecules are constantly being shuttled across the gaps to start up the circuit on the next side. These are the famous neurotransmitters, often of a simple, three-dimensional shape, which caffeine, crack,

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## obituaries/gazette

# Professor Stephan Kuttner

Stephan Kuttner, the historian of canon law, was one of the last of those giants of European scholarship whom a combination of the grace of God and sheer good fortune preserved for civilisation at a time when the grace of God, good fortune and civilisation itself seemed otherwise to be in short supply.

A man of profound and discriminating culture, Kuttner was a brilliant musician and accomplished pianist who might have made a career in musical composition. On the occasion of his 80th birthday there was a family party attended by 40 or more of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Serenading it was a string quartet which performed the usual repertoire, Schubert, Mozart etc. But what was that last piece, Kuttner enquired? It was a quartet of his own, from the early 1930s.

The year 1990 saw the first performance of his *Missa brevis*, "Harmony from Dissonance", the title of his 1960 Wimmer Lecture, was as much an account of the lecturer's view of the world at large, and of his hopes for it, as it was of the particular issues of me-

diaval canon law with which the lecture was concerned. With Stephan Kuttner everything connected.

He might equally have made his way as a poet. At Christmas 1992 he sent his friends copies of his *Gedichte*. Together with works of his own, which the wider world will never see, alas, these included some exquisitely sensitive translations of Hölderlin. In his last months he resigned himself entirely to the blandishments of those two muses. In 1933, however, as well as marrying Eva Illich, with whom for ever after he comprised a single radiant entity, he had opted for legal history.

Of Jewish descent and Lutheran upbringing, as a young man Kuttner converted to Catholicism. Also in 1933 (fateful year), he was forced to leave his native Germany and began work in the Vatican Library on the project for which, above all others, workers in the field will continue to bless him, his *Repertorium der Kanonistik* (1937). He had identified a new area of medieval scholarship and, at stroke, transformed it, providing a firm basis for the study of medieval

canon law and demonstrating once and for all, why the central place he claimed for it was irrefutable.

Not everyone in Major's Britain will appreciate the significance of that. It is in Major's Europe that, like it or not, the fact remains that the law by which medieval Europe's society was regulated was the law of the medieval church.

The heroic search for canonistic manuscripts which Kuttner undertook throughout those parts of Europe still accessible to someone of his antecedents in the late 1930s remains one of the great one-man scholarly enterprises of modern times. Everywhere he went he encountered new curiosities. In Cambridge, for example, he found the fellow-librarian of one of his colleges with a cup of tea perched on one knee, a medieval manuscript on the other, and a pipe in his mouth which, despite his young visitor's protestations, he insisted on leaning over to light from the open fire. Half a century later, Kuttner still shuddered at the memory.

In 1940 the Kuttners were ex-

iled for a second time. The story of their flight from the Vatican, Stephan taking one route, Eva and the children the other, the same at Lisbon airport with Stephan on one side of the enclosure, his family on the other, and interested German agents looking on, might so easily have turned out differently. It very nearly did.

If it had – and but for the intervention of the cardinal patriarch of Lisbon it surely would have – then the history of medieval scholarship would have turned out differently too. As it was, from Lisbon the Kuttners moved to Washington, initially on a two-year appointment at the Catholic University. There, in 1943 Kuttner founded the journal *studia*, and in 1955 he established the Institute of Medieval Canon Law to which, from all over the world flocked to work with him.

His intellectual distinction was recognised by the 17 universities from which he received honorary doctorates between 1952 and 1989, and was acknowledged by membership of the Institut de France

and the German Order Pour le Mérite.

One of the present century's truly inspirational teachers, Kuttner combined scrupulous attention to textual minutiae with a generous and wide-ranging appreciation of the complex inter-relationship of law and life – and not only medieval law and life. In 1967 Pope Paul VI recruited him to serve on the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law. Yet above all it was his Institute and the series of Congresses of the History of Medieval Canon Law over which he presided for almost 40 years by which his distinctive contribution to international scholarship will always be remembered.

With the passage of years, increasingly he appeared a patriarch, which he was. But he was also an imp. On a golden day in Cambridge in 1984, during the Seventh Congress, he delivered a luminous lecture on Gratian, the father of canon law. This, as it turned out, was his swan-song to the Europe that had lost him, the Europe to which he had moved so reluctantly. The older he got, he seemed increasingly eager to

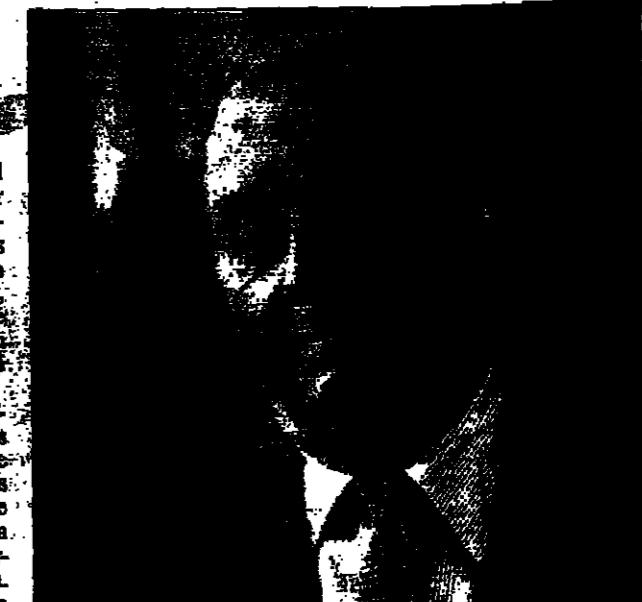
return from his eventual Californian retreat. But not for short spells. For he loved California. Its climate suited his temperament. Also he missed swimming. His voice was excellent, gentle and low. It was on the first day of the recent Congress at Syracuse, New York, that he died.

Dogged by institutional problems to which a scholar of his stature ought never to have been subjected, Kuttner in his last years maintained by the expectation, an expectation which he sometimes encouraged, of a revised *Repertorium*. Those who regarded this as a serious possibility had underestimated his concern for perfection however. Sure, there was material enough for a full-scale revision of the *studia* work. Over the previous half century Kuttner himself had accumulated it. What there was not was time enough for its organisation by a scholar who would not be hurried because there was no hurry. For all his innumerable works of scholarship, published and republished, for Stephan Kuttner there was no rush because there was an eternity of scholarship

stretching out ahead. Kuttner enjoyed that confidence, a confidence born of deep faith. Together with his beloved wife and his ever-sustaining family, his sense of eternity was all that mattered and his enduring strength.

Peter Linehan

Stephan George Kuttner, historian of the middle ages and canon law; born Bonn, Germany 24 March 1907; Assistant, School of Law, University of Berlin 1929-32; died Berkeley, California 12 August 1996.



## John Lanigan

The Australian tenor John Lanigan was for nearly 30 years one of the mainstays of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, first in leading lyrical roles, then in character parts.

As the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* or Jenk in *The Bartered Bride*, he made a dashing and convincingly heroic figure throughout the 1950s. However, it is probably for his Shylock in *Boris Godunov*, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Rector in *Peter Grimes*, Mime in *Das Rheingold* and Siegfried, Monostatos in *Eugene Onegin* or his Spalanzani in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* that he will be best remembered. His ability to draw a fully-rounded character, both musically and dramatically, appeared effortless, but in fact a great deal of careful observation went into these portrayals.

John Lanigan was born in Seddon, Victoria, in 1921. His mother sang in J.C. Williamson's Gilbert and Sullivan productions under the name Lucy Colahan. Lanigan studied with Horace Stevens at Melbourne Conservatory, but was called up during the Second World War and served in the Army Signal Corps. With help from his comrades in obtaining leave, he managed to compete in the 1945 Melbourne Sun Aria Contest, which he won with the Prize Song from *Die Meistersinger*.

After demobilisation the following year, he came to Europe to study further, first in Milan, then in London with Dino Borghi. He made his debut in 1949 with the New London Opera Company at the Stoll Theatre, singing Fenton in *Falstaff*, and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*.

In August 1951 Lanigan sang the leading tenor role of Thaddeus at some of the 13 performances of *Balf's The Bohemian Girl*, put on at Covent Garden at the instigation of Sir Thomas Beecham. Then, on 30 October the same year, he sang the Duke of Mantua as a member of the company. His other roles that season were Rodolfo, and Tamino in *The Magic*

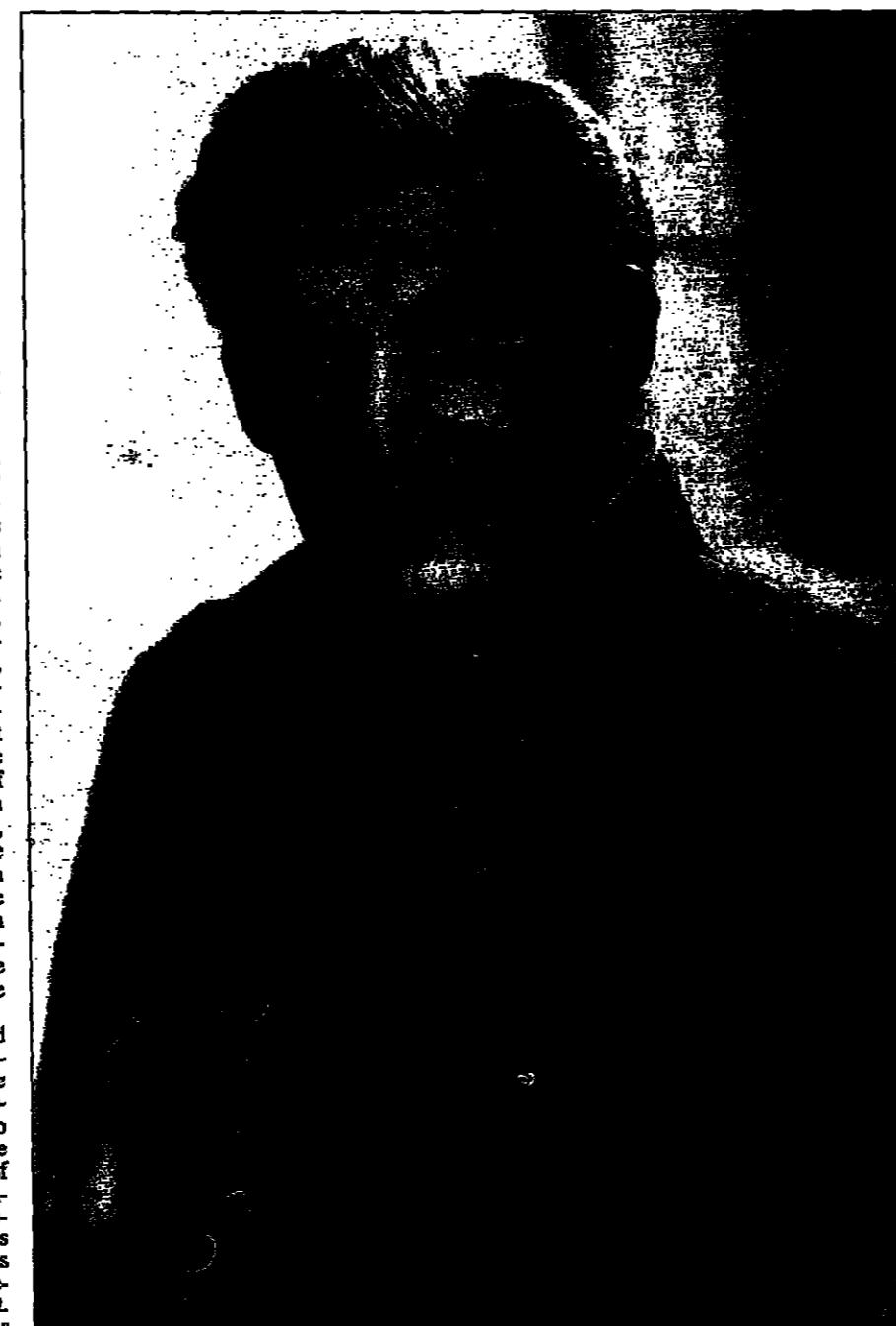
Flute. In 1953 he took over the Earl of Essex in *Gloriana* from Peter Pears, who had created the part in Britten's Coronation Opera. After Pinkerton, Alfredo and Jenk, in 1955 Lanigan scored a considerable personal success, creating Jack the mechanic in Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*. The following year he took on another very congenial role, Laca in *Jenafa*, in the British stage premiere of Janácek's opera.

Lanigan's next three roles, Hylas in Berlioz's *The Trojans*, the Cavalier in Poulenc's *The Carmelites* (another British premiere) and Cassio in Verdi's *Otello* were all lyrical; then in 1958 came a major dramatic part, Shylock in *Boris Godunov*. The opera was sung in Russian, and the scene in the Kremlin between Shylock and the Tsar, sung by Boris Christoff, achieved tremendous dramatic tension. Lanigan, "one of the best Shylocks there can ever have been", received his full share of critical acclaim. His manner, a mixture of scriflity and evil, was totally in keeping with the character, while the smoothness of his voice and the excellence of his Russian accent all added to its authenticity, as can be heard on a fine complete recording of the opera.

Though Lanigan continued to sing roles such as Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* and Fenton in *Falstaff* with success, in the 1960s he began to concentrate more and more on character parts. The finest of these, after Shylock, was undoubtedly Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; his hilarious take-off of operatic mad scenes as Thibbe in the play-within-the-play invariably caused a riot. Another Britten cameo was the Rector in *Peter Grimes*, which he also recorded. In 1962 Lanigan created another role in an opera by Tippett, Hermes in *King Priam*. Later he took over Pandarus in William Walton's *Troilus and Cressida*, a character which, like Flute, was first sung by Peter Pears.

Despite his considerable height, Lanigan made an excellent and very malignant dwarf Mime, while his "Tinca" in Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, Spalanzani in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and especially Dr Cains in *Falstaff* were all remarkable.

In 1970 he was presented



Dashing and youthful: Lanigan in *The Bartered Bride*, 1955. Photograph: Houston Rogers / The Theatre Museum

with an effective new character in Richard Rodney Bennett's *Victory*, an adaptation of Conrad's novel. Lanigan was out-

standing as the sadistic, perverted Mr Jones. This was followed in 1972 by a vivid portrayal of a very different character, the Cardinal/Archbishop in Peter Maxwell Davies' *Taverner*, and in 1976 by two roles, the Soldier and the Madman, in Hans Werner Henze's *We Come to the River*. He last sang at Covent

Garden in June 1981 as the Rector in *Peter Grimes*.

Elizabeth Forbes

John Lanigan, operatic tenor;

born Seddon, Australia 7 January 1921; married 1950 Bettina Hayes (one son, one daughter deceased); died Victoria, Vancouver Island 1 August 1996.

## Sir Brian Warren

Brian Warren was one of the most prominent and fashionable London general practitioners of his day. It was his wit, warmth and no-nonsense wisdom (to which as his son-in-law for 15 years, I was privy) that made him so popular a doctor among his largely working-class patients, many of whom also inevitably became his lifelong friends.

Not least among them was Sir Edward Heath, who first became his patient as a young post-war Tory MP, and with whom Warren travelled the world a quarter of a century later as personal physician to the prime minister for four heady years. When Heath visited China in May 1974 it was his doctor and close friend whom he left behind to see off the state passage to London Zoo of two giant pandas in the vain hope that they might breed in captivity.

Political enthusiasts, who differed only over Heath's need to lose weight, prime minister and physician also shared a profound passion for music – happily symbolised during the Downing Street years by the after-dinner madrigals laid on by Warren's other son-in-law, Martin Neary, organist and choirmaster of Winchester Cathedral, then Westminster Abbey. The Martin Neary Singers recently made a nostalgic return to Downing Street at the dinner hosted by John Major in honour of Heath's 80th birthday.

Born in Tiddington, Bedfordshire in 1914, the elder son of an East Anglian gentleman farmer, Warren inherited from his mother a lifelong love of the countryside in all its aspects. A countryman at heart, forced to live, work and garden primarily in the city, he could always identify the latest bird and the most obscure flower. His knowledge of literature and music was as formidable, combining with his personal style to create an elegant gentleman of an unashamedly old school, proud of maintaining immaculate standards in every department of his life.

He might well have been a soldier or a politician rather than a general practitioner. From Bishop's Stortford School he went to University College, London, to read History, only later transferring to Medicine at University College Hospital. At this time he met the talented young doctor whom he married in 1942, Josephine Barnes (now Dame Josephine, one of Britain's most distinguished gynaecologists), with whom he had two daughters and a son. She was to be the first of Warren's two wives, after their divorce in 1964 he married a fellow Westminster councillor, Anne Marsh, with whom he had two more sons before her untimely death in 1983.

The majority of Warren's distinguished war service, which earned him a mention in despatches, was spent on active service as medical officer to the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Among the first troops to enter Berlin in 1945, he was then transferred to Bonn as Deputy Director of Medical Services with the Guards Armoured Division.

But his first child had already been born, and the following year he reluctantly left the military life so relinquished, bought and restored a tumbledown house in Belgravia, and set up the "consulting room" which soon became the hub of a fast-growing, highly successful practice.

Never too much of a health fanatic, he was more of a common-sense doctor, believing quite literally that a little of what you fancy does you good. His tirelessly sympathetic bedside manner also helped to turn demanding patients into friends.

As well as Heath, his early patients included the then editor of the *Times*, Sir William Haley,

and other rising young Tories such as Enoch Powell. With the arrival of the National Health Service in 1948, Warren's political convictions led him to remain in private practice, as well as running for Westminster City Council, which he served with distinction for 30 years, many as chairman of the health committee. In 1959, after four years as a local councillor, he made his one attempt to become an MP, with an inevitably doomed assault on Marcus Lipton's Labour stronghold in Brixton.

By the 1970s, when his old friend Ted Heath was elected to Downing Street, Warren was already a familiar and popular figure at senior Tory gatherings. On Heath's first day in office, he was summoned to attend a cigarette burn inflicted by a dissident in the crowd as the new Prime Minister arrived at Tory Central Office. In Brussels, 18 months later, he was again on hand when an assailant threw a pot of printer's ink at the prime minister as he arrived to sign the Treaty of Accession.

Knighted in Heath's farewell honours in 1974, Warren remained characteristically loyal to his old friend during the trials of the Thatcher years, while also maintaining friendships with other senior Tories who survived the transition, notably Lord Whitelaw and Pym.

Not until the late 1970s did Warren begin to wind down his practice, gradually returning to his first loves of reading and music, gardening and travel. As a doctor with long experience of elderly patients, he knew all too well the signs of his own failing powers. Over the last few months, with typical glee, he bid a series of fond, unemotional farewells to friends and family.

Anthony Holden

Harold Brian Seymour Warren, general practitioner; born Tiddington, Bedfordshire 19 December 1914; Personal Physician to the Prime Minister 1970-74; knighted 1974; married 1942 Josephine Barnes (marriage dissolved 1964; one son, two daughters); died Victoria, Vancouver Island 18 August 1996.

Warren: a little of what you fancy

## Masao Maruyama

in a Japan becoming ever more standardised, the innovative political scientist Masao Maruyama provided the welcome example of a free-thinking anti-establishment figure of great authority amid a multitude of consensus-minded businessmen and administrators whose concept of intellectual analysis reposed on the recitation of production figures and the percentages of everything. He was an outspoken critic of post-war government irresponsibility, of fascism masquerading as the new-found "democracy". He was a significant opinion leader among the progressive spirits of that time.

Maruyama was one of the few contemporary Japanese think-

ers to have gained credibility in the west, and his writings and opinions can be found quoted not in popularising ego-boosting blockbusters like *Japan as No 1*, but in serious works of social criticism like Karel van Wolferen's *The Enigma of Japanese Power* and Peter N. Dale's *The Myth of Japanese Uniqueness*.

But Maruyama also erected a system of thought that greatly influenced Japanese intellectuals in their studies of Japan's often mystifying political processes. Soon after he had joined the *Maruyama Current* and "the Maruyama Sect" of his supporters.

Maruyama was born in Osaka Prefecture, the son of

the Occupation onwards. His work is a penetrating analysis of Japan's social and ideological situation, as can be seen in his seminal work, *Chokoku shugi no rouri* ("The Logic and Psychology of Ultra-nationalism") which, in 1946 brought him to the forefront of sceptical commentators on the early excited misapprehensions of the nature of "freedom" and "democratic ideals".

After years of repressive military rule, Maruyama's book created shock waves in the Diet and in university circles. It analysed unsparingly the spiritual underpinnings of pre-war and post-war antidemocratic organisations, especially the Emperor system. At that time,

any criticism of the Imperial family was absolutely taboo.

In 1956-57, he also attracted attention, not always favourable, with his best-selling two-volume *Gendai seiji no shugi to kodo* ("Thought and Behaviour in Modern Japanese Politics") and his 1976 work *Senku to seiso no aida* ("Between the War and the Postwar Era"). These and most of his other writings have been widely translated and published in learned journals, and several books have been written about him in Japan, notably Ryumei Yoshimoto's *Maruyama Masao Ron* ("A Discussion on Masao Maruyama"), 1963, and Jitichiro Imai's "Maruyama Masao's Working Notes", 1964. He had

been invited as Visiting Professor at Harvard University and to various European institutions.

Maruyama was always on the side of the underdog, and he gave his full support to the student demonstrations of 1960. However, certain of his ideas taken up by left-wingers who only half understood the significance of his arguments, engendered violence on a wide scale, denounced by Maruyama as worse than the excesses of Fascist and Japanese militarists. It was a misinterpretation of his basic ideas that greatly saddened him, for it was obvious that student leaders had not really "studied" his books. Composed with exceptional elegance and clarity, he also came under

attack from certain fellow professors, nationalist academics who condemned his life's work as a total rejection of Japan's cultural and historical past. ("The economic miracle" was having deleterious effects on the whole of intellectual life). He was also criticised for his thought's affinity with progressive Christian ethics and European existentialist philosophy.

Maruyama was elected a member of the Japan Academy in 1982, and honorary foreign corresponding member of the British Academy in 1982, then honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1984. The *Times* in a review of one of his books aptly

summed him up as "logical liberal".

Always an individualist with a sharp eye for social bumbum, Maruyama expressed the wish that no funeral ceremony be held for him. So though he died on 15 August, his death was not announced until the 18th, when the funeral had been carried out. He also requested that the only form of memorial service should be a colloquium attended by friends and colleagues to investigate and discuss the universe of his thought.

James Kirkup

# business

THE INDEPENDENT • Friday 23 August 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

# Interest rates fall across Europe

IMRE KARACS  
 Bonn  
 CHRIS GODSMARK  
 London

The Bundesbank yesterday gave a powerful boost to the German economy and threw a lifeline to the beleaguered French franc by slashing its main money market interest rate. The cut in the repo rate from 3.5 per cent was a historic low of 3 per cent was larger than expected and triggered rate reductions in Belgium, Austria and, to the surprise of the markets, in France.

The French central bank cut its intervention rate from 3.55 per cent to 3.35 per cent. The markets in France had not expected a cut in rates given the recent weakness of the Franc, but welcomed the German cut, which takes some pressure off the French currency.

In the wake of the Bundesbank decision the mark weakened, while shares in Frankfurt surged ahead. As expected, the central bank held its official discount and Lombard rates, the floor and ceiling for money market rates, at 2.5 percent and 4.5

percent respectively. Pointing to weaker money supply figures, Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president described the cut as "the continuation of our policy" that would "create clarity for the foreseeable future."

But German economists suggested the Bundesbank had now

cut rates as far as it could. "This was no small step," commented Commerzbank's economist, Peter Pletsch. "The central bank has used up all its room for manoeuvre."

Pressure for a cut had come from exporters, still stifled by the high mark, and from politicians

concerned by sluggish growth at home and turbulence on currency markets ahead of European monetary union in 1999. But the desire to help industry had to be weighed against the danger of fueling inflation. M3 growth had slowed to 8.6 per cent last month bringing the an-

nual target of 7 per cent into view. Inflation, currently 1.6 per cent, rose slightly last month and is forecast to rise again this month.

Meanwhile, controversy has been raging about economic growth, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that manufacturing

has recovered from this year's mini-recession much more strongly than expected. The IFO institute's business confidence survey released on Wednesday gave a surprisingly up-beat picture, showing a leap of nearly three points in its index within the past month, to the highest since last November.

The Bundesbank appears to have been unswayed by this bout of confidence, relying instead on hard statistics that offer merely a glimpse of the sought-after recovery. Even Germany's Economic Ministry, the lair of professional optimists, was restrained in its appraisal.

However, the recovery is being driven not so much by a surge in demand, but more by restocking. According to Commerzbank, stock reductions in the chemical industry and steel industry have come to an end.

The construction industry has come out of its winter hibernation frozen, with no end to its slump in sight. Mechanical engineering is suffering from lack of investment, and is not expected to resume growth until next year.

German consumers are still buying cars, but shunning other durables, and the market in home computers has virtually collapsed.

The cut in the repo rate is not expected to stimulate demand directly; its effect will be concentrated on the exchange rate. But by taking the pressure off the French franc, the Bundesbank has come to the rescue of European monetary union, signalling for the first time that it is prepared to look beyond domestic concerns and play a more active role on the European stage.

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## Scope for UK cuts as consumer boom fails to emerge

The scope for another cut in UK interest rates was increased significantly yesterday after official figures showed no evidence of a developing consumer boom in the spring, writes Chris Godsmark.

Coupled with a Confederation of British Industry survey released today, which suggests inflationary pressures in manufacturing industry are non-existent, the statistics gave ammunition to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as he seeks to fend off calls for rate rises

from the Bank of England.

According to the detailed breakdown of output data from the Office for National Statistics, consumer spending rose by just 0.7 per cent between April and June, lower than the 0.8 per cent increase between January and March. It follows figures on Wednesday showing an unexpected 0.6 per cent drop in retail sales in July.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist with Japanese stockbrokers Nikko Europe, said: "We have had a recovery during

the year but these figures show it has been modest and weaker than most people had expected."

Another surprise was the small rise in the measure of income from employment. In the second quarter of the year it went up by just 0.2 per cent, after a 1.4 per cent increase in the first quarter.

Economists suggested recent falls in unemployment count have disguised a contraction in the size of the labour force. "Income growth

has failed to pick up as companies shed jobs and people leave the labour market," said Mr Briscoe. "It suggests there is continuing nervousness in the consumer sector and still plenty of job insecurity."

The figures also point to a re-balancing of the pace of recovery back towards manufacturing, which has suffered a severe slowdown in growth since the early part of last year.

Investment rose by 2.1 per cent between April and June, higher than economists had

anticipated and up from 1.5 per cent in the previous quarter.

One factor behind relatively weak growth was that firms built up stocks of goods at a much slower rate in the second quarter.

However, Kevin Gardner, an economist with investment bankers Morgan Stanley, said the general picture wasn't quite as weak as had been suggested.

"If it hadn't been for falling stockbuilding, GDP growth would have been much stronger, at about 1 per cent in the second quarter," he explained.

The CBI's monthly manufacturing survey was more gloomy, showing that manufacturers still predict that their order books will shrink, though the negative balance of -10 per cent is the lowest so far this year.

Firms did not expect to raise prices at all for the second month in a row, a sign that last year's surge in commodity prices has passed through the economy with no lasting impact.

Comment, page 17

## Upbeat Rentokil to keep 'non-core' BET operations

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Rentokil yesterday surprised the City by announcing it had no plans to make any large disposals of businesses as a result of its £2.5bn acquisition of rival business services group BET earlier this year.

The news came as Rentokil, which is to adopt BET's main brand name by changing its own name to Rentokil Initial, said it would complete the integration of the complementary BET businesses over the next six months. Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, said they were very pleased with what they had found at BET. "The upside potential is excellent."

The upbeat mood combined with news that Rentokil had again beaten its 20 per cent growth target in the first six months of the year, sending its shares 10p higher to 419p yesterday.

But analysts said the decision to retain nearly all of the BET operations could hit Rentokil's rating in the market. The group had indicated during the bitterly

fought bid battle that certain of BET's peripheral businesses would be considered for disposal. Sir Clive said yesterday they now believed that non-core areas like plant hire, distribution, resort management and conference centres could add sales and margin growth in future.

Nyren Scott-Malden of Barclays de Zoete Wedd said: "This makes Rentokil a very different animal to what I was expecting." Plant services is a substantial business, chipping in profits of £52.9m last year, he pointed out.

"This is very un-Rentokil. They are very asset intensive, non-people orientated businesses."

Their retention would reduce the quality if not the quality of earnings and would hit the group's rating, he believed.

Although Rentokil would probably continue to produce 20 per cent earnings growth, the shares did not deserve their current premium against the market of nearly 60 per cent. He is maintaining his full year profits forecast of £353m, but may upgrade next year's by £20m to around £474m.

Half year figures to June, including two months of BET, showed pre-tax profits soaring from £99.2m to £135m. Earnings per share rose 20.9 per cent to 7.87p, out of which an interim dividend of 1.48p is being paid, up 20 per cent on last year.

Integration had cost £2.5m in the first half, with further restructuring to come in the second. The group is also likely to write down BET's assets.

Further integration would be completed over the next few months or at most the next six months, Sir Clive said. But he suggested that BET had allowed too much freedom to its subsidiaries and set undemanding standards. Rentokil would impose tighter controls.

Stripping out a £15.1m contribution from BET, the original business saw its profits rise 20.4 per cent to £119m. Mr Thompson said UK turnover, broadly flat at less than £118m, had been hit by sluggish demand for timber treatments, one-off jobbing contracts and in the fire protection business.

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Mr McCartney questioned why the company needed a London base at all. He added: "It's their job if they've got international connections to bring them to the North. I know of no other company which is ashamed to bring international connections to the North West."

The seven floor, 9,400 square foot offices, which are based near the US Embassy, were still being advertised in the current edition of the London Office Guide, an exclusive commercial property magazine. One estate agent, who did not want to be named, said: "It's their job if they've got international connections to bring them to the North. I know of no other company which is ashamed to bring international connections to the North West."

Frank Dobson: Leading the offensive on 'fat cat' excesses

stepped up by Ian McCartney, the party's employment spokesman, who claimed the building, leased from the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estate, would cost £376,000 a year to rent. Pointing to signs of an on-going refurbishment, he said:

The attack on the excesses of the privatised utilities, pursued by Labour's Frank Dobson, was

## 'A chauffeur per exec' sparks Nat Grid row

The National Grid was at the centre of a fresh storm over executive perks yesterday after it emerged that it employs five chauffeurs – one for each executive board member, writes Michael Harrison.

The disclosure came as the Grid wrote to all shareholders saying that it could not achieve new cost reductions demanded by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, to pay for cuts in domestic power bills.

Professor Littlechild has told the Grid to reduce its cost base by 4.6 per cent a year to finance a 4% reduction in the average domestic electricity bill but the company claims the proposals are too "harsh".

The chauffeurs are employed to drive the group chief executive David Jones and the Grid's

## Utilities plan to counter windfall tax

MICHAEL HARRISON

The privatised utilities are preparing to mount a concerted campaign against Labour's threatened windfall tax in the run-up to the election, depicting it as a tax on their 7 million shareholders.

A Grid spokesman defended the number of chauffeurs it employs saying: "The five drivers are split between our offices in London and Coventry and their duties include not only driving directors but also meeting visitors and acting as couriers."

The letter to the Grid's shareholders urges them to write to Offer, Mr Jefferies' chairman, to tell shareholders that the "harsh proposals seem to go against the spirit of incentive regulation" and are "tilted against your interests and will adversely affect our ability to grow dividends".

The campaign by the utilities is also likely to highlight the potential impact of the windfall tax on their employees. Although most of the companies have cut their workforces sharply since privatisation they still employ vast numbers in a large number of marginal constituencies in the South-east and the Midlands.

The Goldman Sachs report, drawn up after consultations with Labour's Treasury team, suggests that the tax may be tailored to meet out the harshest treatment to those utilities that have done most for shareholders and least for customers.

A spokesman for National Power, the country's biggest electricity generator, pointed out that its 1.2 million small shareholders owned almost 30 per cent of the company. "The assumption is that the money is there to be taken and that only a few fat cats will suffer but that is not the case," he added.

According to an analysis last month by the investment bank Goldman Sachs the tax could raise £5bn and hit a far bigger number of companies than pre-

Opposition angered as utilities splash out on expensive London offices and award themselves transport perks

## Labour attacks United spending

CHRIS GODSMARK  
 Business Correspondent

Directors of United Utilities, the company formed by the £1.8bn takeover of Norweb by North West Water last year, came under a new "fat cat" offensive from Labour yesterday, this time over their impending move to fashionable London offices.

Labour staged a demonstration outside 43 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, where United will move its London base in September. The company currently occupies just "two or three" rooms near the Houses of Parliament, but, according to a spokesman, "London is the centre of the business market and we need appropriate premises."

The attack on the excesses of the privatised utilities, pursued by Labour's Frank Dobson, was

stepped up by Ian McCartney, the party's employment spokesman, who claimed the building, leased from the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estate, would cost £376,000 a year to rent. Pointing to signs of an on-going refurbishment, he said:

The seven floor, 9,400 square foot offices, which are based near the US Embassy, were still being advertised in the current edition of the London Office Guide, an exclusive commercial property magazine. One estate agent, who did not want to be named, said: "It's their job if they've got international connections to bring them to the North. I know of no other company which is ashamed to bring international connections to the North West."

Frank Dobson: Leading the offensive on 'fat cat' excesses

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# business

## Car trade is still slow for Evans

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

**Evans Halshaw** was one of the leading companies in the motor distribution sector until the wheels came off a couple of years back. A rights issue to fund an ambitious expansion just before a slump in the volume car market and the retirement due to illness of former chief executive Geoff Dale have cast a shadow over the shares, which peaked at 540p in March 1994 and have skidded more or less ever since to yesterday's 304p, down 6p on unexceptional interim figures.

There were few surprises in the half-year results, which showed pre-tax profits of £7.3m, down from £8.2m in the first half of 1995, mainly thanks to an one-off contract-hire profit in the previous period. Earnings per share slid from 17.1p to 15.3p and the cautious outlook was given substance by an unchanged interim payout of 5.5p, slightly less than analysts had hoped for.

Although the new car market increased by 5.1 per cent in the six months to June, most of the growth came from small manufacturers and specialist marques, taking market share from Rover, Vauxhall and Ford, which account for 60 per cent of Evans Halshaw's sales.

Despite the difficult trading conditions, Evans is at a very interesting stage of its development, with new chief executive Alan Smith putting the finishing touches to a strategic review which he hopes to publish in October, along with an estimate of the exceptional charges that will be taken against full-year figures to fund the upheaval.

An outsider to the car industry, Mr Smith is a retailer with considerable experience gleaned from spells at B&Q, Superdrug and Boddingtons before its takeover by *Greensells*. His fresh eye has already convinced him that motor dealers have been left way behind by the rest of British retailing in terms of service and professionalism and he has ambitious plans to shake up his corner of the industry. If he is successful, there is no reason why Evans should not return to the forefront of the business.

Whether it is a business worth being at the forefront of is a moot point. August sales of P-registration cars are expected to be fractionally ahead of last year and the manufacturers appear to have taken a less rosy-tinted view of demand when planning supply. But margins remain under pressure as Evans's pitiful 1.5 per cent return on sales in the first half showed only too clearly.

There is, however, a price for everything, and Evans appears to have factored in all the gloom in the industry and then some. On the basis of forecast profits (before any exceptional charge) of £13.5m this year and £16m next time,

the shares trade on a prospective multiple of 11 falling to 9. With a safe dividend giving a forward yield of 6.7 per cent rising to almost 7 per cent, the downside is now very limited.

### Weir shows its new confidence

The early 1990s marked a sparkling period of revival for Weir Group, the pumps and valves maker based in Scotland's former industrial heartland. But the last few years have not been kind. The boom resulting from the water industry's capital investment programme and the rash of combined cycle power stations has run out of steam, leaving the group to slug it out internationally with big rivals like KSB of Germany and Sulzer of Switzerland.

With competition intense, Weir's shares have suffered badly, underperforming the market by nearly 40 per cent since the start of last year.

But the first tentative signs that the bottom may have been reached came

with yesterday's half year results. Although pre-tax profits sank 4.8 per cent to £19.2m, Weir signalled its confidence in the outlook by lifting the interim dividend by 5 per cent to 2.31p.

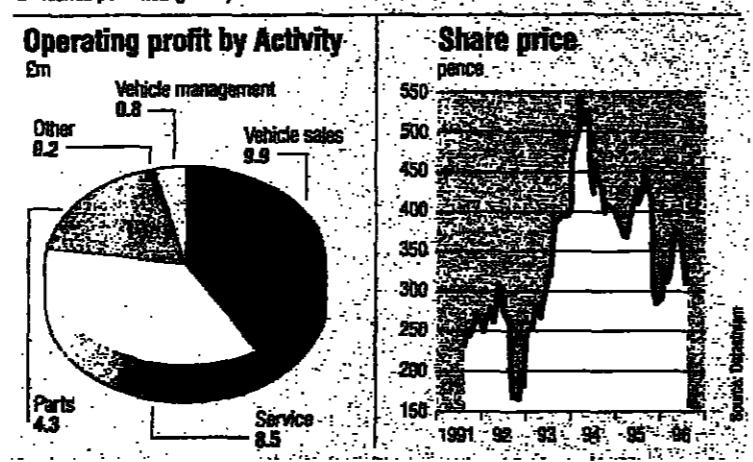
Analysis of the figures shows some grounds for that confidence. Associates caused most of the damage, with the share of profits from Devonport naval dockyard slipping £2m after disruption caused by safety modifications earlier this year, and a 21.5m turnover at Strachan & Henshaw, the Bristol based specialist handling business. Devonport is already out of the woods, while there are signs that the weak markets which hit Strachan are recovering.

More importantly, margins in the main pumps and valves business have been maintained or improved in the half year. Valves were ahead in turnover, profit and margins. In pumps, despite some of the most severe competition, Weir continues to hold the line on pricing and has seen modest margin improvement. While rivals continue to win business at cut-throat prices, there is some hope that management changes at KSB will lead to a more realistic approach.

### EVANS HALSHAW: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £97.6m, share price 304p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£m)	465	520	520	Half year
Pre-tax profits (£m)	7.81	13.5	13.6	8.2
Earnings per share (pence)	12.8	15.0	16.5	5.5
Dividends per share (pence)	12.8	15.0	16.5	5.5



Perhaps most encouraging, although order intake was flat at just under £300m in the first half, that hid recovery from a depressed first quarter, with third quarter enquiry levels also higher. The group has a decent record with acquisitions and, with up to £100m to spend, more are imminent. Profits of around £48m this year would put the shares, up 18p at 234p, on a p/e of 14. Hold for the recovery.

### Signet takes the shine off profits

You had to feel a little bit sorry for Jurek Pisarcik, head of the Goldsmiths jewellery chain, yesterday. There he was, unveiling a sparkling set of results, including the company's first interim profit as a public company, and all anyone wanted to talk about was

Signet. The sale of Signet's UK chains H Samuel and Ernest Jones is imminent and it is possible that, under a rather complicated deal, Goldsmiths could end up controlling the Ernest Jones chain. This is the more upmarket group and a nice fit with Goldsmiths' Walker Hall division.

The point for shareholders is how do they stand to fare if this deal does or doesn't go ahead? Investors have had an excellent run in the last couple of years, with the shares rising from a low of 113p last year to 332p yesterday. Some may be concerned that Goldsmiths is about to jeopardise that performance with an over-ambitious leap.

If Goldsmiths does get Ernest Jones there would be some scope for rationalisation, the closure of one head office and the introduction of Goldsmiths' better technology systems. It would also benefit from far larger economies of scale.

If the deal founders, yesterday's figures show that Goldsmiths is doing very nicely on its own. Half-year profits of £54.0m in the six months to July compare with a £48.9m loss last time. With a business heavily skewed towards Christmas and the second half, an interim loss is normal. Like-for-like sales are 12 per cent ahead and new openings should run at 10-15 a year for the next five years. A loyalty card is being rolled out. And there are new initiatives such as computerised engraving of jewellery.

With full year profits of £5.8m forecast, the shares are on a forward price-earnings ratio of 17. Hardly a bargain, but worth holding.

## All power to the people, unless they're called Sid

### CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Olgas Czarina Clare Spottiswoode has nailed her colours to the mast as "the customers' regulator" and "the people's friend". Well, at this week's press conference.

She sang a different tune, however, at the subsequent City analysis' conference.

While declaring the cuts in TransCo's prices were her final proposals, Ms Spottiswoode said she hoped there would not be another "insidious barrage from the public".

Olgas is only interested in "serious" argument, she said, and has been unimpressed and uninterested in the "barage" of correspondence from the public.

Ms Spottiswoode was referring to the 35,000 letters from angry Sids and Samanthas that have deluged Olgas since it announced its price cutting proposals in May.

George Orwell would recognise Ms Spottiswoode's logic immediately. Evidently, some people are more "public" than others, depending on whether they buy gas or gas shares.

Footie fans will be familiar with Fabrizio "Silver Fox" Ravanelli's habit of pulling his shirt over his head and running around blind whenever he scores a goal for Middlesbrough.

Seeing a marketing opportunity, Howard Ford's Cellnet, which has a £3m sponsorship deal with Boro, wanted to put its logo on the inside of the Italian striker's shirt.

Thus, every time the Fox planted the ball in the back of the onion bag, thousands of supporters and TV viewers would get a flash of Cellnet.

The Football Association has blocked the move. It has strict limits on the amount of branding allowed on each soccer jersey, totalling 32 square inches, and Boro's shirts already have that.

Cellnet also sponsors the England Rugby team, a



### DOES THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAVE CAUSE TO FEAR THIS IMAGE?

That ageing prankster Richard Branson has taken time off from his sun-kissed Caribbean retreat on Necker Island to agree a send-up (above) of the Tories' "Blair decimal eyes" poster campaign.

Virgin Direct has hijacked the Labour-bashing campaign in order to push the company's growing range of personal financial services, in this case life insurance.

game in which members of the scrum often have to change their shorts on the field after a particularly violent ruck. Another opportunity for Cellnet, perhaps?

A chipper Viscount Weir, chairman of pump and valve maker the Weir Group, is an example to us all. Two years ago next week, the Eton and Cambridge-educated industrialist's car was hit head-on by a stolen motor being driven at 90mph. The third Viscount is still on crutches, almost 24 months later.

"However, one mustn't get too depressed by such things," he says.

Happy, his doctor has told him he can progress to walking sticks next week, and will be playing golf by November.

Viscount Weir, 62, a Scottish Tory from Ayrshire, is also a member of that gloriously anachronistic club, the Queen's Body Guard of Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. Whether he will be plucking a bow in the near future he failed to say.

Sir Clive Thompson and Rentski are gearing up for a courtroom showdown with former BET chief executive L John Clark, who is claiming £3.3m after being sacked in Rentski's hostile takeover.

Sir Clive says: "We are surprised that Mr Clark has chosen not to accept what we believe is an excellent offer, particularly as Mr Clark benefited from Rentski's bid; as a result of his share options and long-term incentive plan."

## Gehe may make new offer for Lloyds Chemists

ELISABETH KLEIN

Gehe, the German pharmaceutical giant which bid £650m for Lloyds Chemists, yesterday said it might make a renewed offer for the UK company at the end of September.

Dieter Kaemmerer, chairman of Gehe's management board said: "Being very optimistic, we could possibly make a renewed bid for Lloyds at the

end of September." He added that the size of the bid would depend on cash raised from the disposal of several Lloyds warehouses.

The Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission made the sale of seven Lloyds warehouses by October 18 a condition for Gehe to acquire the UK company.

Gehe and UniChem, the pharmaceuticals retailer and

wholesaler which is the other bidder in the long-running battle for control of Lloyds, both agree that the negotiations to complete the sale of the warehouses are Lloyds' responsibility. They will introduce potential buyers to the two companies.

"We are very happy that Lloyds is now in charge of these discussions," said Mr. Kaemmerer. "It would have been really difficult for us to

find takers, because we didn't really know anything about the warehouses we had to sell."

Gehe also reported its interim figures for the six months to June yesterday. These showed a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to DM196.2m (£85m).

Turnover was 16.5 per cent higher at around DM10.5bn (£4.6bn).

The group said the results

reflected the full consolidation of AAH, the British pharmaceutical wholesaler acquired last year, which was only in part for the comparable period.

Last week, Gehe reported that operating profits at AAH had soared by 48 per cent to £24.5m in first half to June, on turnover up 2 per cent to £874m.

Gehe said without the contribution from AAH, group

sales would have shown an increase of 7.2 per cent.

Mr Kaemmerer made an optimistic statement on future prospects.

"We expect to see positive developments in all areas of the business during 1996," he said. "We anticipate turnover for the year to grow by around 7 per cent to around DM20.5bn. Operating profits should increase by 10 to 15 per cent."

ing under its own name other parts of HSBC's existing empire.

## HSBC makes £400m banking move in US

NIC CICUTI

HSBC, the banking giant, yesterday restated its commitment to US retail banking by announcing that its US subsidiary Marine Midland is to buy the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, in New York state, for (\$620m) £400m.

The purchase, from the Canadian holding company Inasco, itself part-owned by BAT, the tobacco giant, adds almost 80 branches to the 330 already operated by Marine Midland in New York state.

"We're not going to be knocking on any doors for about 12 months," he said. "The acquisition of Federal Savings is another in a series of targeted purchases aimed at expanding the scope of our operations to a wider retail base."

ING, the Dutch financial services giant, saw its own profits boosted by more buoyant financial markets as it announced a 28 per cent rise in first-half net profits to £15m (£57m).

Baring's, the UK merchant banking arm bought for £1 last year after it collapsed under the weight of losses incurred by rogue futures trader Nick Leeson, contributes about 100m guineas in net profits to ING annually and the Dutch group said yesterday that it was hoping to double this amount.

The latest acquisition follows Marine Midland's purchase in 1994 of Spectrum Home Mortgage, which now operates in eight states.

It is also one in a series of purchases which have seen Marine Midland add to its stable of banking outlets in the New York area, sometimes by badge.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Ree Valley Construction (I)	11.5m (11.3m)	0.12m (0.10m)	0.75p (0.68p)	0.2p (0.2p)
Resourcing (I)	28.3m (34.3m)	4.8m (5.4m)	9.3p (11.7p)	2p (2p)
Reynolds (I)	405m (430m)	7.32m (8.23m)	15.2p (17.1p)	5.5p (5.5p)
Richelieu (I)	1.31m (1.01m)	-0.60m (-1.10m)	-4.53p (-4.33p)	1p (-1p)
Richie Group (I)	184m (165m)	2.79m (2.36m)	7.6p (5.3p)	2.75p (3.20p)
Rental (I)	44.9m (37.5m)	13.5m (59.2m)	7.07p (6.51p)	1.48p (1.22p)
Torday & Christie (I)	10.7m (15.1m)	0.57m (-0.95m)	2.6p (-1p)	0.1p (-)
Web Group (I)	31.6m (28.6m)	19.2m (20.2m)	2.71p (2.2p)	2.31p (2.2p)
West (I)	44.9m (37.5m)	5.22m (4.86m)	14.45p (13.47p)	4.5p (4p)
EW Fact (I)	5.48m (4.70m)	0.93m (0.27m)	3.4p (1p)	0.9p (0.9p)
Marine & Mercantile (I)	-	-		

## Clarke could get away with another rate cut

### COMMENT

'Eddie George will warn the Chancellor strongly against it, but in his heart he knows that even the markets are not going to punish the Chancellor for doing it.'

**K**enneth Clarke has all the luck. The Bank of England may still have its reservations, but hardly anyone else is going to blame him if he cuts interest rates again over the next few months. Suddenly everything seems to be conspiring to let him do it. The Bundesbank, more led these days by the economic needs of France than its own domestic inflationary concerns, duly obliged yesterday with a rather larger than expected cut in the repo rate to 3 per cent, allowing France and Belgium to follow suit. On the other side of the Atlantic, fears of a rise in rates have receded and even here in Britain, what looked like mounting evidence of a pre-election boom seems rather to have been discredited by much of the data released over the last two days.

Even the public finances, the Achilles heel of most Chancellors since the war, seem to be on the mend judging by last week's borrowing figures. The backdrop for a further cut in domestic interest rates hasn't looked so good for months. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will warn the Chancellor strongly against it, but in his heart he knows that even the markets are not going to punish the Chancellor for doing it.

Longer term, of course, markets remain as sceptical as ever. Long bond yields of nearly 8 per cent tell their own story; it is that markets do not yet believe inflation is dead or that the public finances are restored to health. In part this is because they factor in a Labour Party win at the next election.

But the prognosis isn't much better even in the unlikely event of the present Government scraping home. So the markets look both ways at once. While they seem capable of taking another rate cut in their stride, they already accept that policies of this sort are just storing up problems for the future. But while bond and currency markets might worry about the future, the equity market has no such concerns. A new all time high was reached by the FTSE 100 yesterday and it is hard to see what's going to prevent the onwards march up to the 4,000 mark in the present tapestry of circumstance. Though Hans Tietmeyer denies it, the Bundesbank has shown itself capable of breaking its own rules in cutting interest rates by such a margin. Money supply, which has long determined policy at the Bundesbank, may be falling, but it is still above target range. If the rules can be broken once, they can be broken again. This may not be the last Bundesbank rate cut.

**No tears for the tobacco barons**

It is hard to feel sorry for BAT Industries, nor any of the other tobacco companies having to watch their share prices go up in smoke. A more snug, disingenuous and downright deceitful industry it would be hard to imagine. If peddling death were not bad enough, they have made a fortune doing it

over the years. So far, the industry's complacent boast that it has never paid a cent in damages has held good, but the stock market is surely right to believe the tide is now turning. The industry's insistence that it will be able to withstand the deluge of litigation that awaits is being undermined by a string of adverse rulings in the US courts.

The recent Florida ruling in which BAT subsidiary Brown & Williamson was ordered to pay a cancer sufferer \$750,000 in damages is not the first time the industry has been told to compensate a smoker, but all previous rulings have been overturned on appeal. This one may be too, but there's another coming up in Indiana and a string of others behind that. One day the dyke will crack and then the torrent of writs will sweep all before it.

What is important about Bill Clinton's expected intervention in the debate today is that for the first time ever smoking has become a central element of a Presidential campaign.

The shift to the top of the political agenda puts this industry in a much more dangerous position than has existed to date. Casting Philip Morris and RJR aside will lose a few votes in Virginia, but who cares when the whole of health conscious California thinks you're right?

The industry might be justified in feeling betrayed by governments that have supported it for 30 years after the dangers of smoking were first confirmed. They have cynically balanced tax revenue against higher healthcare costs and been seduced by the

tobacco lobby. But betrayed or not, the industry's claim that the proposed restrictions represent an infringement of their freedom of speech is so much tosh. Virtually all products which are known to pose a threat to public health get banned. The wonder is that governments have allowed this one to persist virtually uninhibited for so long after the health risks became known.

If Mr Clinton's change of heart reflects a genuine shift in society's tolerance of smoking, and if juries start ruling consistently against the companies, the liabilities are potentially so large that not even the vast untapped Asian markets will save them. If you think tobacco companies' share prices have been overvalued, look at the options market where the right to sell BAT shares in November at 35p below the current price was one of yesterday's best performers.

### Sir Clive's iron rule at Rentokil

**D**ubbed Mr 20 per cent, Sir Clive Thompson, veteran chief executive of Rentokil – the rat-catching to tropical plants group – could just as well be labelled Mr Smug. Few companies can rival Rentokil for its overweening self-confidence. As Sir Clive never tires of reminding his investors, Rentokil has a record few can match. The half-year figures suggest it is now on course for a 15th consecutive year of 20 per cent earnings

growth, and to judge by yesterday's progress report, Sir Clive looks set to repeat the achievement at BET, acquired for £5.2bn earlier this year.

According to Sir Clive, BET's management, culture, strategy and management controls were a dead loss. Senior staff spent too much time discussing strategy and not enough on the nitty-gritty of how to keep profits and cash piling up. Their targets were underwhelming: success was measured by ability to fill in forms and follow correct procedures, rather than achieving results.

It is all so very different at Rentokil where there is no need to discuss strategy – that has been expertly laid down at the centre. In essence, Sir Clive says, the culture at BET can be summed up in the words freedom, while at Rentokil it is encapsulated by the word control. BET will be subjected to Rentokil's iron fist. Rigid cash flow and capital expenditure targets will be set, the group will be benchmarked against the best in the business and soon the profits will roll in.

So confident is he of Rentokil's abilities as a company doctor that he is going to keep the BET businesses he said he would sell at the time of the takeover. Add to that the proposed change of name and you have to wonder whether we are not witnessing here just a touch of hubris. We'll see. In the meantime Sir Clive would do well to remember the sad demise of Hanson, another group which believed in its own invincibility until the music suddenly stopped.

## Fear of new US tobacco curbs hits BAT shares

**RUPERT CORNWELL**  
Washington  
AND TOM STEVENSON  
London

The beleaguered tobacco industry faces a massive blow to day when President Bill Clinton is expected to give his approval to drastic new cuts in cigarette marketing, endorsing last year's Food and Drug Administration ruling that nicotine is an addictive drug.

Shares in BAT, which have fallen almost a fifth in the last two weeks, tumbled a further 21p to 425p on the news. Heavy trading of almost twice the daily average number of shares underlined the increasingly nervous attitude of investors towards a sector which is seen as being under growing threat from anti-smoking litigation and political interference.

The detailed FDA recommendations had still to be formally cleared by the White House yesterday. But if Mr Clinton holds to the proposals, the clampdown will see a ban on vending machine sales of cigarettes, cuts on tobacco advertising, and the launch of a \$150m (£100m) campaign against under-age smoking – paid for by the companies themselves.



Flagging his intent: President Bill Clinton on the White House lawns yesterday launching the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act with Senators Nancy Kassebaum (right) and Edward Kennedy. Smoking and health has become an election issue in the presidential race

Photograph: Ruth Fremson/AP

The move – potentially the most far-reaching against the industry since the 1964 landmark US Government report linking smoking and lung cancer – is part of Mr Clinton's build-up to next week's Democratic convention in Chicago. For the first time it thrusts the smoking issue to the centre of the Presidential election campaign.

The new pressure from the White House comes as trouble mounts for the industry on two other fronts, all contributing to the recent slide of tobacco stocks on Wall Street and in London.

BAT shares have slumped 16

per cent, from 509p, since a Florida jury ordered its Brown & Williamson Tobacco subsidiary in the US to pay \$750,000

to a long-time smoker of its Lucky Strike cigarettes who contracted cancer. The shares had traded as high as 585p in February.

This week Michigan became the 13th state to take the tobacco companies to court in an effort to recover healthcare expenditure arising from smoking-related diseases, seeking \$14bn in compensation.

A verdict meanwhile is imminent in an Indiana case brought by the wife of a three-packs-a-day smoker who died of

lung cancer at the age of 52. After the Florida verdict, analysts say a second adverse ruling may open the gates for a flood of lawsuits that would swamp even the massively rich tobacco companies.

The companies have already denounced the impending FDA regulations as "illegal and ineffective," and have served notice that they will go to the courts to have them struck

down – meaning that implementation of the new rules could be a year or more away.

The companies claim that the proposed restrictions on advertising are a violation of their freedom of speech.

The tobacco companies fear that if the FDA is given control of regulating cigarettes, it will gradually impose tighter and tighter restrictions on their sale.

"That's the worry," said Nyren Scott-Malden, an analyst at BZW. "But the industry thinks it has a very good case that the FDA shouldn't be the regulatory authority."

He said that he was surprised by the extent of the drop in BAT's shares. "There seems to be no particular reason to get worried today," he said. "We've been waiting for this for a year, and it doesn't seem that [these

regulations] are any different from what we've expected."

But for Mr Clinton right now, politics are uppermost. By coming down harder than any previous President on tobacco and underage smoking, Mr Clinton is burnishing his "family values" image, and drawing a clear distinction with his Republican opponent Bob Dole, who caused huge controversy earlier this summer by declar-

ing that he did not believe cigarette smoking was necessarily addictive.

In a new book *Between Hope and History*, published this week to coincide with the convention, Mr Clinton writes that "the tobacco industry has no right to peddle cigarettes to children or encourage them directly or indirectly to smoke."

While his assault on the industry may cost votes in tobacco

producing states like Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky – most of which are predominantly Republican anyway – the President is likely to more than recoup them elsewhere, especially in health conscious California and Florida.

Opinion polls suggest that Measures against teenage smoking are overwhelmingly favoured by smokers and non-smokers alike.

## Bass on verge of £200m Carlsberg-Tetley deal

**JOHN SHEPHERD**  
Business News Editor

Bass is on the verge of sealing its £200m deal to buy Carlsberg-Tetley. The merger, which would mark the biggest consolidation of the UK brewing industry in the last century, could be announced today.

Lawyers from Bass and the joint owners of Carlsberg-Tetley – Allied Domecq and Carlsberg of Denmark – were burning the midnight oil last night, attempting to conclude several months of complex negotiations before the deal is finalised.

The City has been growing impatient for final details of the deal following official confirmation at the end of last month that negotiations were taking place. It will return Bass, under the leadership of Sir Ian Prosser, to top of the brewing league

ahead of Scottish and Newcastle, which last year bought Courage. Together the two groups would control more than 70 per cent of Britain's brewing capacity. From 6,000 breweries in 1900, the total number of breweries has been whittled down to a couple of hundred.

Analysts are keen to see an end to the uncertainty hanging over Bass's share price, caused by fears that the deal may dilute the company's earnings for the next two years. "We desperately need to see the full details," said one analyst yesterday.

The regulatory authorities are also keen to scrutinise the deal which will give Bass control over almost 40 per cent of the beer market. The Department of Trade and Industry's sanction of last year's takeover of Courage, which took S&N's market share beyond 35 per cent, should not

be construed as a precedent, according to industry observers. Opinion in the industry and the City is divided over whether the takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley should be examined by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. S&N was dealt with lightly, having only to amend a beer supply agreement with the Imperial pub chain.

Since then, however, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has abandoned the "national champions" policy adopted by his predecessor Michael Heseltine. The Government, one analyst said, may well become concerned about control of more than 70 per cent of the market by just two companies.

Analysts said that Bass was likely to agree to more onerous undertakings than those imposed on S&N to avoid a reference to the MMC. Some believe

which could end up in the European Court of Justice.

The EC argued last week that the guest beer provision was discriminatory because guest ales were typically a British product, and therefore excluded draught beers produced by other member states using different fermentation methods.

In response to a letter of concern from the Whitbread brewing company, the minister said it considered that the guest ale arrangements were compatible with the Treaty of Rome.

Whitbread and Carlsberg, the pressure group, welcomed the Government's stance. Whitbread said: "The DTI's comment shows an underlying confidence in the market conditions within which guest beers are sold in the UK."

Carlsberg believes that the guest ale provision has been a liberalising measure since it was introduced four years ago. Ben Wardle of Carlsberg said: "This statement [DTI] gives great hope to Britain's beer drinkers." He said 50 new breweries are



Close to signing the deal: Bass chief Sir Ian Prosser

it may be forced to sell a couple of hundred pubs and dispose of several brands from the Carlsberg-Tetley portfolio.

Bass stands to gain control over one of the best selling brands, Tetley, and two leading lagers, Carlsberg Export and Super. It already owns the best selling Carling Black Label, plus Caffreys, Tennent's Extra, Stones, and Worthington.

opened in Britain every year, most of which sell their beer as guest ales. "There has been an explosion of choice and quality for the drinker," he added.

## Pru shares up on rumours of M&G sell-off

**NIC CICUTTI**

Expectations that the Prudential might abandon its planned £500m float of reinsurance subsidiary Mercantile & General in favour of a trade sale sent its shares sharply higher yesterday in a flurry of speculative trading.

A separate rumour had the float going ahead but much earlier than previously thought.

An analysis pointed out that a speedier sell-off would allow the Prudential to concentrate on a sudden takeover bid for Woolwich Building Society, itself preparing for a £3bn stock market flotation next year. Brought by the market talk, the insurer's shares closed up 17p at 442p.

When Peter Davis, the Prudential's group chief executive, announced the partial flotation of the reinsurance subsidiary, he dampened down takeover fever by suggesting that his company wanted to get the Mercantile deal out of the way first. Mr Davis suggested the likely float date, markets permitting, would be in late autumn.

One analyst, who would not be named, said yesterday: "You mark my words. The company is clearing its decks for the Woolwich bid. I expect an announcement within three months. But I'd rather not have my name printed in case I'm wrong, thank you."

The amount raised would go towards financing the bid for Woolwich Building Society, al-

though it was not strictly necessary since the Prudential would have no problem raising the funds needed to do so.

A Prudential spokesman refused to comment on rumours of an early Mercantile & General sell-off.

The sale of Mercantile & General, worth about £1.2bn in total, follows a strategy review of the entire Prudential group, which has led the company to decide to concentrate on retail financial services and associated fund management activity.

M&G is one of the world's major reinsurers, operating in more than 100 countries. In 1995, the company wrote gross premiums of £1.3bn and contributed £190m, almost 25 per cent, to the group's pre-tax profits of more than £800m.

In June, Mr Davis said that while the Prudential's primary aim was to seek a listing for about half the company, if a suitable offer for the entire business were to be made, it would be considered carefully.

The Prudential is preparing to launch its own telephone-based mortgages and retail savings operation. It hopes to build significantly on the more than £700m in mortgage business it currently places each year with a panel of other lenders.

But it has made no secret that it is in the market for a suitable building society or even a mutual life insurer in pursuit of its UK retail strategy.

### IN BRIEF

• A US federal court judge will today give his ruling in a critical case which could undermine Lloyd's of London's £3.2bn restructuring. The lawsuit, by about 100 US investors, seeks to delay the plan pending more financial details. Lloyd's investors, or Names, have until next Wednesday to approve or reject the plan.

• Dairy Crest, the food group, has received solid support from its farmer-owners in its £171m stock market flotation. Almost 88 per cent of farmers opted to take shares rather than cash for their stake. The company said it had also received solid support from institutional investors. Dealings in Dairy Crest shares are expected to commence on 28 August.

• Sainsbury's has become the first major supermarket chain to accept American Express credit cards. The card will be accepted in all branches of Sainsbury's, Sava Centre and Sainsbury petrol stations from 2 September.

• Berisford says workers at its Magnet kitchen factory at Darlington has voted for industrial action. The plant was hit yesterday, but management said it was willing to continue discussions.

• The sale of Signet's UK jewellery chains should go through in the next two to three weeks. The £280m deal is expected to see venture capital group Apax Partners acquire the H Samuel and Ernest Jones chains with existing management kept in place.

• British Polythene Industries has acquired two of Jefferson Smurfit's UK trading units. Swains Packaging at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, and Smurfit Packaging Products based at Radcliffe in Manchester. BPI and Smurfit also plan a joint venture to acquire Smurfit's Paceline business in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland.

• Quicks Group, the vehicle and parts distributor, increased its profits before tax by 18 per cent to £2.79m for the six months to 30 June 1996, boosted by a rise in used car sales of nearly a third. Group sales rose 11 per cent to £184.4m and earnings per share by 23 per cent to 7.8p. Interim dividend was lifted to 2.75p.

• Harrison's & Crosfield is to sell its 54 per cent stake in a Papua New Guinea palm oil plantations company to the government for £42m, part of its withdrawal from commodity areas. Chief executive Bill Turcan said the sale of its stake in New Britain Palm Oil will release funds to inject into the company's growing industrial businesses. New Britain reported 1995 operating profits of £26.7m on sales of £74m.

• Card Clear has launched an agreed bid for Cardcast, offering five



# Retailers are trying to hold back the Internet tide

Which is the largest bookshop in the world? Does it have a branch on London's Charing Cross Road? The Barnes & Noble branch which opened in Minneapolis a couple of years ago? Dilions in Gower Street, London, perhaps? Wrong, wrong and wrong again. The answer lies not on the high street but in cyberspace. Amazon Books, the Internet bookseller founded by two American brothers, claims to be the "planet's largest bookstore," with more than a million titles on offer.

Yet it has no stores, just a huge warehouse outside Seattle. A true "virtual" retailer, it has far lower costs which allows it to keep prices lower than high street rivals and still cream off far higher margins.

Amazon is not alone. CD Now, which was founded by two brothers in a Californian basement, also has no shops but offers 250,000 CDs through its "virtual" store on the Internet. This is around the same number of combined CDs and videos as at the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Street.

Virtual Vineyards has no off-licences, but ships lesser known Californian wines around the world from orders taken via its Internet web site.

The growth of these companies is significant. Without the baggage of a store portfolio with its expensive rent, heating, lighting and security bills, virtual retailers have an in-built cost advantage over their high-street counterparts.

A recent study by Hoskyns, the computer services group, shows that while a traditional retailer might have operating margins of 6 per cent, a virtual retailer's margins would be 18 per cent (see graph).

## INDUSTRY VIEW

NIGEL COPE



Herein lies a problem for traditional store groups. They would dearly love to grab a slice of these high-margin sales by selling direct. But if they do, they risk cannibalising their existing branches. If they do nothing, start-ups will grab market share. Not much, maybe, but in many cases just a small loss of volume is enough to turn a profitable store into a loss-maker.

This conundrum is one reason why electronic shopping has been relatively slow to take off. Retailers have a vested interest in it not happening.

Most of the big store groups have

and establishing themselves."

The report says that direct selling channels, such as mail order or electronic media, represent a serious challenge to traditional high street retailers.

With the Internet growing

rapidly and other electronic channels such as interactive television developing, stick-in-the-mud retailers are standing in the path of an unstoppable tide.

Sales on the Internet were valued at just \$500m last year but are predicted to rise to over \$6bn by the end of the decade. Hoskyns foresees electronic revenues of

### The implications for store groups are frightening. Some pundits say in 40 years there will be no shops at all

an Internet presence but many of their strategies are largely defensive, trying to protect what they already have.

A study published this week by IMRG (Interactive Media in Retail Group) says this year, or "leadership resistance" is one of the main barriers to the widespread acceptance of on-line commerce.

"The resistance is short-sighted," it says. "The result is that new entrants to the market are setting up, under-cutting the big operators

£1bn – that is 30 per cent of the UK market – within nine years. Better technology, such as cable modems and satellite Internet connections, is coming.

Security issues, including concern

over credit card transactions on the Internet, are being addressed.

Demographics are shifting in the direction of electronic media. The

Nintendo generation, which is more

comfortable with computers, is

growing up and entering the job

market. They will be much more

comfortable about shopping on-line than today's forty-something technophobes.

The implications for retailers are frightening. Some pundits have said that in 40 years there may be no shops at all. Nicholas Negroponte, author of the best-seller *Being Digital*, has said that the video-rental store will not exist in a few years time, sunk by video-on-demand technology that will enable viewers to download programmes when they want, via the telephone line.

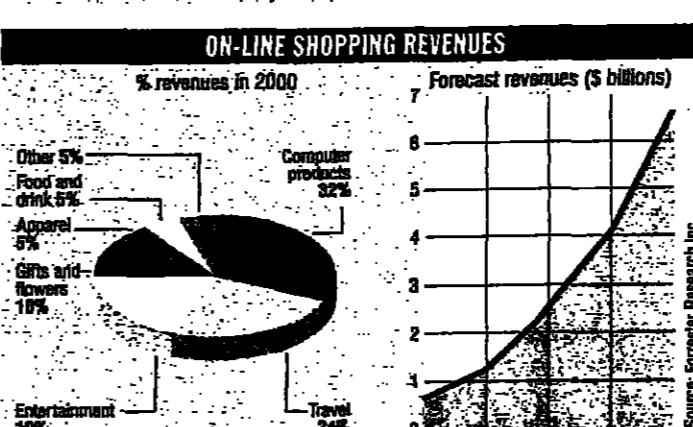
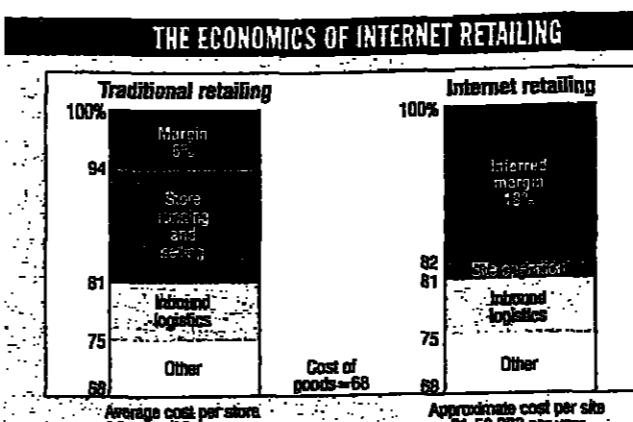
All that investment in expensive store portfolios suddenly looks rather vulnerable. In traditional retailing the mantra still holds true that there are three things that matter: location, location and location.

People shop at their nearest store or one that is convenient. But in the digital age, geography becomes irrelevant. Using "intelligent agents" – software robots which can be sent to search the Internet – people will be able to shop around for the cheapest price at the click of a mouse.

Some retailers are more vulnerable than others. People will still prefer to go to the shop to try on clothes, sit on furniture and see and hear expensive TV and audio equipment. But what about commodity items such as books and records? In CDs, for example, it is the artist that is the brand, not the retailer. What value is the retailer adding?

Supermarkets also look vulnerable. They represent a time-consuming distress-purchase that many individuals would prefer to avoid. Home shopping could prove attractive to those prepared to pay extra for home delivery.

The truth is probably more painful. The supermarkets, more



car and drive home again. Supermarkets have their consumers pretty well trained.

But new alternatives are coming. Streamline, the US home shopping system, wants to franchise its service in Britain. For a monthly charge the company will handle a family's groceries, dry cleaning, video rental and mail, and deliver it all into a lockable box in the family's garage.

Unlike many other home shopping trials, Streamline has no stores. It buys direct from manufacturers and bypasses the retailers altogether.

The world's largest retailers may feel they are too powerful to be injured by a fledgling new shopping channel that is currently slow, cumbersome and used by only a small proportion of people. But icons do crumble. As the IMRG study points out, the mighty Hollywood film studios of the 1940s and 1950s failed to see the threat posed by television and many went bankrupt within a few years.

In the 1980s IBM underestimated the impact of the personal computer and was wrong-footed. In retailing many department stores failed to withstand the onslaught of the speciality stores and probably more importantly, the "category killers" such as Toys 'R' Us.

The department stores became the dinosaurs of the 1980s by failing to notice the changes around them. According to Faith Popcorn, the US future trends guru, the supermarkets could be next. Other sectors could follow. Worrying times on the high street.

"Web Sites," published by Interactive Media in Retail Group.

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling		Dollar		D-Mark	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month
US	84.6	11.5	10.0	10.0	2.0
Canada	2.20	1.13	1.05	1.05	1.05
Germany	5.25	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
France	7.85	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.51
Italy	2.37	1.91	1.85	1.85	1.85
Japan	12.78	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.45
ECU	1.28	1.11	1.05	1.05	1.05
Netherlands	8.94	15.15	14.55	14.55	14.55
Spain	0.96	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
Sweden	1.72	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
UK	1.00	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
Denmark	1.28	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10
Ireland	0.96	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
Portugal	1.28	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10
Switzerland	1.28	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10
Australia	1.50	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10
New Zealand	2.23	1.47	1.35	1.35	1.35
Hong Kong	1.97	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01
Malaysia	3.86	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Thailand	1.28	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10
China	0.60	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
South Korea	0.60	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15
Japan	12.78	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.45
Other	1.28	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10

## Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	0.98	0.98	Nigeria	12.95	78.00
Austria	1.025	1.025	Oman	0.593	0.950
Brazil	1.578	1.048	Pakistan	5.497	35.65
China	12.865	1.309	Philippines	40.643	22.400
Egypt	5.267	3.425	Portugal	2.735	1.950
Finland	7.021	4.523	Qatar	5.837	3.640
Greece	36.558	1.457	Russia	1.280	1.280
Hong Kong	1.97	1.01	South Africa	7.051	4.575
Iceland	25.701	1.650	Spain	42.655	2.705
India	55.285	3.560	Taiwan	42.655	2.705
Iraq	0.4644	0.2988	UAE	5.869	3.675
Malta	0.600	0.600	Other	0.850	0.850

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subject to spot rate quoted low to high at a premium.

\*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocal.

For latest foreign exchange rates see page 103.

Calo cost 30p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

## Interest Rates

Country	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
UK	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Germany	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
France	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Italy	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Spain	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Australia	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Canada	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Sweden	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Norway	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Denmark	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Iceland	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Portugal	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Finland	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%
Other	5.75%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%

THE INDEPENDENT  INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY 

PHILIPS  Let's make things better

# Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

You've seen the rest now play the best in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Independent Fantasy Football, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs, brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

So take up the challenge and prove your skill as a manager to win a football fan's dream prize and the opportunity to gloat over friends and colleagues well into the 1997-98 season.

#### PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

#### HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

**FORMATION A. 4-4-2**  
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers  
**FORMATION B. 4-3-3**  
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers  
**FORMATION C. 5-3-2**  
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers  
**FORMATION D. 3-5-2**  
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and



one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phone line carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

#### HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard

four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes. The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before calling.

#### Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		

PIN No.  Total £

Team Name:

#### POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

#### Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244 (tone)

UK 0891-252-234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls cost 58p per minute including VAT at all times. Maximum call length 6.5 minutes.

## INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE
<b>GOALKEEPERS</b>															
457	Watson	EVE	2.7	550	Pearce	WIM	2.2	685	Ginola	NEW	4.2	853	Deane	LEE	3.0
458	Unsworth	EVE	3.0	553	Reeves	WIM	1.8	686	Clark	NEW	3.0	854	Collymore	LIV	8.1
459	Hottiger	EVE	2.2	554	Thorn	WIM	1.8	687	Woan	NOT	3.4	855	Fowler	LIV	9.5
460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1.9	555	Thatcher	WIM	2.7	688	Bar-Williams	NOT	3.6	856	Claridge	LEI	3.0
461	Jobson	LEE	2.7	689	Stone	NOT	5.0	687	Heskey	LEI	2.8	857	Robins	LEI	2.0
462	Kharine	CHE	3.7	690	Gemmill	NOT	3.0	688	Parker	LEI	2.5	858	Cantrona	MU	8.1
463	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5	691	Taylor	AV	1.9	689	Taylor	LEI	1.6	860	Scholes	MU	5.0
464	Orzivovic	COV	1.5	692	Draper	AV	4.1	690	Venison	SOT	2.7	861	Ferdinand	NEW	8.6
465	Filan	COV	1.5	693	Dennis	BLA	3.0	691	Heaney	SOT	2.2	862	Saunders	NOT	5.2
466	Southall	EVE	3.0	692	Wilcox	BLA	3.7	692	M Gray	SUN	5.0	863	Roy	NOT	4.8
467	Martyn	LEE	3.3	693	Ripley	BLA	3.0	693	Rae	SUN	2.7	864	Campbell	NOT	3.1
468	James	LIV	4.7	694	Parlour	ARS	2.4	694	Agnew	SUN	1.0	865	Booth	SW	4.4
469	Pool	LEI	1.5	695	Helder	ARS	3.7	695	Anderton	TOT	6.7	866	Hirst	SW	5.5
470	Hoult	DER	1.6	696	Hillier	ARS	1.5	696	Fox	TOT	5.6	867	Bright	SW	2.5
471	Schmeichel	MU	5.5	697	Taylor	AV	1.9	697	Howells	TOT	3.2	868	Le Tissier	SOT	7.0
472	Walsh	MID	3.0	698	Townsend	AV	3.1	698	Sinton	TOT	3.0	869	Shipperley	SOT	3.7
473	Smicer	NEW	3.7	699	Draper	AV	4.1	699	Williamson	WH	3.6	870	Watson	SOT	1.2
474	Hidlop	NEW	3.7	700	Draper	AV	4.1	700	Dumitrescu	WH	3.7	871	Kelly	SUN	2.1
475	Crossley	NOT	2.7	701	Wise	CHE	3.7	701	Hughes	WH	2.7	872	Stewart	SUN	2.3
476	Wright	NOT	1.3	702	Peacock	CHE	2.1	702	Moncur	WH	2.7	873	Sheringham	TOT	7.4
477	Beasant	SOT	1.8	703	Coat	COV	2.5	703	Bishop	WH	3.0	874	Armstrong	TOT	5.9
478	Pressman	SW	2.7	704	Alcock	COV	1.8	704	Jones	WIM	2.8	875	Rosenthal	TOT	2.1
479	Cotter	SUN	1.8	705	McAllister	COV	3.0	705	Earle	WIM	3.1	876	Futre	WH	4.0
480	Walker	TOT	3.4	706	Jess	COV	2.2	706	Ardley	WIM	2.0	877	Raducioiu	WH	5.1
481	Mikusko	WH	3.0	707	Simpson	DER	1.2	707	Fee	WIM	2.0	878	Dowie	WH	3.3
482	Sullivan	WIM	1.8	708	Browne	LEI	2.2	708	Wallace	LEE	1.8	879	Holdsworth	WIM	4.5
483	Dixon	ARS	3.1	709	Palace	LEI	2.2	709	Johnson	AV	3.5	880	Goodman	WIM	3.2
484	Winterburn	ARS	3.1	710	Coat	COV	2.5	710	Milosevic	AV	4.4	881	Etoke	WIM	2.7
485	Bould	ARS	3.0	711	Coat	COV	2.5	711	Yorke	AV	6.7	882	MANAGERS		
486	Adams	ARS	5.3	712	Coat	COV	2.5	712	Wright	ARS	7.0	883	Keegan	NEW	8.0
487	Knowles	ARS	3.7	713	Coat	COV	2.5	713	Harison	ARS	7.2	884	Ferguson	MU	9.0
488	Staunton	AV	3.0	714	Coat	COV	2.5	714	Johnson	AV	3.5	885	Evans	LIV	7.0
489	Southgate	AV	5.2	715	Coat	COV	2.5	715	Joachim	AV	2.4	886	Rioch	ARS	6.0
490	McGrath	AV	3.0	716	Coat	COV	2.5	716	Shearer	NEW	11.1	887	Royle	EVE	5.5
49															



# sport

**BLACKBURN IN TURMOIL:** Rovers realised appointing a director of football had not worked. Phil Shaw reports

## Dalglish's days were numbered



Kenny Dalglish was a gaunt, gloomy figure at the time of his leaving of Liverpool, haunted by Hillsborough and complaining that his head felt as if it was about to explode. Five and a half years on, the end of his extraordinary affair with Blackburn Rovers was, if anything, precipitated by a lack of pressure.

Midway through the opening week of a new season, barely 16 months after taking the club to their first championship in 81 years, Blackburn's director of football was nowhere to be seen at Aston Villa. Instead, as the chairman, Robert Coar, announced a parting of ways in the wake of Rovers' second successive defeat, Dalglish was relaxing at an altogether different villa in Spain.

In his version of events yesterday, the 45-year-old Dalglish reiterated the party line about a "mutual agreement" to end his sojourn in east Lancashire. But he also talked about feeling unfulfilled in the year since he handed the managerial baton to Ray Harford, and admitted that the impetus for the latest change had come from the club rather than himself.

"It's the first time I've been unemployed since I left school – by someone else's choice," Dalglish said. "We came to the same opinion, albeit that that they came to it a little earlier than me. I rang the chairman on Wednesday and told him my thoughts. He said the club had already come to the same conclusion. My reasoning was that I just could not get job satisfaction."

Dalglish recalled that he informed Blackburn that he no longer wanted "the demanding day-to-day involvement" of the manager's post in the wake of their title triumph. "I told the club then that I'd go if they wanted me to or stay in some capacity if they wished," he said.

"When they asked me to stay on, with the title of director of football, I saw the job as speaking when I was spoken to, and to help if asked. I think there's a void in football for a position like that, and that's why I was prepared to take it."

"A year on, the club obviously

felt there was not a great need for that facility and decided to call it a day. It's their prerogative and my feelings were on similar lines. It just didn't work out."

Doubts about the lack of definition of Dalglish's role surfaced last autumn. It was thought he would come into his own when scouting Blackburn's Champions' League opponents. Yet he appeared conspicuously uninvolved in a calamitous campaign, and was criticised for watching his son, Paul, play for Celtic reserves on the night of one European match. Dalglish explained yesterday that he had been anxious not to impinge Harford's authority, preferring to offer advice when asked.

As for his own state of mind, Dalglish said: "I certainly feel a million times better than when I last left a club. I'm not finished with football, but football might be finished with me. There's going to be a lot of speculation, though to my knowledge there's nothing imminent."

There will be no shortage of prospective employers, although they will want to be assured of his willingness to immerse himself in the daily grind he escaped last summer. The game is in his blood, as he acknowledged on arriving at Blackburn in 1991. "If

you're to make yourself a life you have to do it in the industry to which you're best equipped. Football is the one best suited to me. And anyway the wife wanted me out of the house."

Garry Flitcroft, the last major sign of the Dalglish-Harford era, said at Ewood Park that the players had not seen Dalglish for two months. But Dalglish's golf partner and Southport neighbour, Alan Hansen, claimed his former colleague and manager at Liverpool was "disappointed" not to have been more involved at Ewood Park. "Director of football wasn't a great role for him," Hansen said. "He needs to be in the dressing-room, to be No 1."

"It's an absolute certainty that he'll be back in some capacity. If I was a chairman looking for a manager, I know who I'd go for. He's got a terrific record," Dalglish laughed and said: "Big Al might be a bit biased." Blackburn, meanwhile, have no plans to advertise for a new director of football.

Just as a trickle of leading European players are bringing a little foreign fantasy to the hulky burly of English football, the Continental concept of devolving the myriad duties previously encompassed by the title of "manager" has suffered a loss of credibility.

Kenny Dalglish is not the first casualty of a conflict of roles within a club – or a failure to define them adequately – though he is the most celebrated. Ten days earlier, the departure from Arsenal of his former Scotland team-mate, Bruce Rioch, had its origins in an attempt to create the framework favoured by clubs in France, Italy and Spain.

The Arsenal board were determined Rioch would effectively be first-team coach, with David Dein, the vice-chairman, and Ken Frier, the managing director, in charge of transfers and other financial matters. This di-



Changing times at Ewood: When Kenny Dalglish was the manager and Ray Harford his assistant they fulfilled the dream of Blackburn's sugar daddy, Jack Walker, by winning the Premiership (Inset) but after his change of role the Scot faded into the background. Photograph: Steve Morton/Empics

### Kenny Dalglish at Blackburn

Dec 1990: Jack Walker takes over at Blackburn.

Oct 1991: Walker appoints Dalglish as Blackburn manager.

Nov 1992: Dalglish breaks Rovers' transfer record by making Mike Newell his 15th signing from Scotland.

May 1993: Dalglish signs Rovers to promotion to the Premiership.

July 1994: Dalglish signs Alan Shearer for British transfer record of £2.3m from Southampton.

July 1994: Dalglish shatters British transfer record by signing Chris Sutton from Norwich for £2m.

May 1995: Dalglish takes Rovers to Premiership runner-up spot.

May 1995: Dalglish leads Blackburn to their first English title in 81 years (Inset).

May 1996: Dalglish named Manager of the Year.

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## sport

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round-up

# Surrey limited by their lack of spin

## Cricket

JON CULLEY  
reports from Trent Bridge  
Nottinghamshire 392-6  
v Surrey

Surrey must find it irksome to be reminded as often as they are that they lack a decent spinner but there would be no use pretending that it played no part in their frustrations here yesterday, reinforcing the view that their title credentials are flawed as a result.

Nottinghamshire won the toss but after five consecutive defeats in the Championship can have approached their task with

## Cowan picks up hat-trick

## Round-Up

Ashley Cowan performed a hat-trick on his way to career-best figures of 5 for 68 against Gloucestershire at Colchester. The 21-year-old Essex fast bowler removed Richard Davis with the last ball of his 14th over and then dismissed Martyn Ball and Andy Smith with the opening two deliveries of his 15th.

Cowan also brought the Gloucestershire innings to a close by getting rid of Jack Russell for 63 as the visitors slumped from 242 for 5 to 280 all out.

By the close Essex, seeking their fifth successive victory to further boost their Championship hopes, had seized the initiative as Graham Gooch and Darren Robinson put on 72 without loss.

The Warwickshire spinner Ashley Giles staked another claim for England 'A' recognition by teaming up with last man Tim Munton to frustrate Worcestershire at New Road.

Giles, who has taken 48 first-class wickets this season, wielded the bat to good effect to reach his second Championship half century during an unbroken stand of 86 with Munton which rescued the side and set

the confidence. Tim Robinson and Ashley Metcalfe began serenely enough but then both got themselves out, as did the captain, Paul Johnson, through poor strokes, a regrettable waste against undemanding bowling on an easy-paced pitch.

It was at this point, after Johnson's dismissal at 98 for 3 that Surrey must have wished that they had a Phil Trott or a Peter Such in their locker, someone canny enough to keep things tight but attempt a few more of the indiscretions to which their opponents had already shown themselves prone. One could not fault the effort put in by Richard Pearson, the off-spinner acquired from Es-

ssex to stand in for the slow-left-arm bowler at Guildford last month in a Surrey victory. He picked up two more yesterday, but not before the initiative had been wrested away from his county by Matthew Dowman and Greene Archer, two young batsmen in need of better fortune, whose partnership of 187 in 38 overs was not only an entertaining spectacle but one that turned the day into Nottinghamshire's most satisfying for some weeks.

Dowman's century was his first in the Championship in 16 first-class games, spread over three seasons completed when he crashed his 15th boundary through the covers off Darren Bicknell. The same bowler was to claim his wicket shortly afterwards but until that moment, ignoring Martin Bicknell's appeal for a catch at the wicket when Dowman was 66, it had been a chanceless innings that exuded authority.

In 1993, Dowman made 267 for Young England against the West Indies at Hove and while it may still be pertinent to ask how it is that so little has been seen of him since, a few more innings as mature as this, which equalled his first-class career best, may lead Nottinghamshire to think themselves wise not to have rushed him.

Archer, who has had more chances but could have made more of them, began looking less secure than his partner but went on to prosper none the less. Disappointingly, he received little support from Chris Cairns, but after reaching his hundred with his 11th four he found a more adhesive partner in Wayne Noon. When bad light forced an early finish, Archer was unbeaten on 143, after four and three-quarters hours at the crease, in a seventh-wicket partnership worth 83.

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Phil Stukous hit his second century of the season and Paul Nixon compiled an unbeaten 67 to keep Leicestershire's challenge on course against Hampshire at Grace Road.

The pair came together with Leicestershire in trouble at 167 for 5, but revived the innings with a stand of 109 in 34 overs as the home side recovered to reach 343 for 8 at the close.

## No return for Giddins

Sussex will not be re-registering Ed Giddins after he has served his 20-month ban for cocaine use.

A statement issued by the county yesterday said: "Whilst the decision may appear harsh... we believe it to be important that a message is received loud and clear that the use of drugs in any walk of life, but particularly in sport, is wrong and will not be tolerated.

One over on the first day of the third Test match yesterday will stand out for me long after most of the other statistics will have become lost in the record books.

During the afternoon Mushtaq Ahmed, that superbly gifted bowler of leg breaks and googlies, bowled the 41st over of the innings to John Crawley.

Mushtaq's run-up and delivery is worth an essay on its own and after the final twirl of the arms the first ball of the over, generously flighted, was on its way. Crawley moved his left leg forward and did no



Paul Nixon nudges Leicestershire's total along against Hampshire yesterday

Photograph: Neal Simpson/Empics

## Yorkshire regain momentum

## MIKE CAREY

reports from Headingley  
Yorkshire 305 for 5  
v Lancashire

Tradition has it that Rose's matches are to use the vernacular, now to do anyone else. However, the outside world is watching this one with much interest to see if Yorkshire can regain their momentum after a series of setbacks and if Lancashire can do something about another season of under-achievement in the Championship.

The puffs of dust emerging from a pitch so dry and cracked that it could have been specially

imported from one of Yorkshire Water's reservoirs suggested it was important for Yorkshire's batsmen to make the most of winning the toss and, up to a point, they did.

Apart from the unlucky Anthony McGrath all made runs, even if some got themselves out when they were in, and David Byas will want the innings to grind relentlessly on this morning in the knowledge that bat will become increasingly less straightforward.

Lancashire have won only one Championship game and that was against Durham. Only once before, in 1984, have they ended a season with a solitary win. One-day trophies are all very well but it does not take

much to upset some members on the other side of the Pennines and by all accounts the natives are getting restless again.

They would not have been over-impressed with the way Lancashire used the new ball. The pitch may have looked greenish to the distant eye, but on a sunny morning there was no movement and therefore no margin for error. Martyn Monox and Michael Vaughan wisely flinched their boots while they could.

Lancashire left out the estimable Ian Austin for the second successive game. Like all good professionals, Austin was less than happy at this but his omission gave Richard Green, 20, only his third Championship

game and his whole-hearted bowling was a considerable plus for Lancashire on a difficult day.

It was no mean achievement to hit the splice or induce a hurried stroke on this pitch, but Green managed it. And after Gary Keeley, bowling accurately and mostly round the wicket, had induced errors from the openers, Green got his rewards in two successive overs. First Byas, aiming to whip him through midwicket, skewed a catch to cover off a leading edge. Then McGagh, working hard to rediscover a semblance of form, was undone by low bounce, but Craig White, having taken 26 balls to get off the mark gradually gave Yorkshire something to build on today.

## Hill aims to settle title race quickly

## Motor racing

DERRICK ALLSOP  
reports from Spa-Francorchamps

A sunny Spa, a bright and positive Damon Hill: what a difference a change of scenery can make. So much so that the championship leader has publicly declared his intention to be the champion in the next two races.

Victory here, in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, and in Italy, a fortnight later, will give him the title regardless of how his only challenger, his Williams-Renault team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, finishes. Such was Hill's mood when he arrived at Formula One's most spectacular and awe-inspiring circuit that the usual air of caution was jettisoned in favour of expressions of confidence and purpose.

Hill had, he said, practised his starts, a source of anxiety and let points of late, and was encouraged by human and technical improvements. He also maintained that the atmosphere within the team had not been polluted by his claims of "confusion" and a difference of opinion over pit stop strategy, in the Hungarian Grand Prix, a fortnight ago.

A grand prix was a battleground, where the combatants had to think on their feet, he reasoned. He accepted that he was certain factors from the team's point of view that were not necessarily evident in the heat of conflict. "I have no complaints about Hungary," he said. "We're professionals, we work as a team and there was never a question of ill-feeling."

That unity extended to his relationship with Villeneuve and, after a family holiday in the South of France, he was focused on completing the championship campaign with a flourish. Hill, who leads the Canadian by 17 points, said: "I'm never complacent but I'm looking forward to finishing the season as quickly as possible. If I win here and at Monza it's all over, and I certainly have that in mind."

The 35-year-old Englishman has apparently flushed away the nagging concerns that appeared to haunt him in the immediate aftermath of his narrow defeat by Villeneuve at Budapest, and that should prove every bit as significant as better starts. He is adamant that he is justified in keeping his foot-operated clutch rather than the hand mechanism favoured by Villeneuve. And, unlike the Hungaroring, this magnificent circuit will not summarily condemn a driver for a tardy getaway.

This is an authentic race-track, a genuine test of driving skills. It is the circuit that ought to carry Hill within touching distance of his objective.

## Three strokes confirm touch of class



**HENRY BLOFELD**  
at The Oval

The last ball of the over was also well flighted but closer to the off stump. Crawley could have driven it between cover and extra cover but he deliberately delayed his stroke opening the face of the bat and playing the ball with exquisite and effortless timing, placing it precisely to the left of cover for the third four of the over.

They were three strokes which told of Crawley's class.

They were all similar yet each was different, calling for a slightly altered blend of skills.

They were the highlight of the best innings for Crawley in this series against Pakistan.

has so far played for England and how important it is for his confidence and for England's cause that he goes on this morning and converts it into a hundred.

Crawley is one of those players who seems to have more time than most of his colleagues. This illusion prevails because he sees the ball early, which enables him to move his feet into the right position for the stroke. His innings here and Nick Knight's at Headingley have been the two big gains for England in this series against Pakistan.

## SPORTING DIGEST

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